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LETTERS
FROM
GERMANY
AND
BELGIUM



39.

422.





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LETTERS

FROM

GERMANY AND BELGIUM.

BY

AN AUTUMN TOURIST.

— ♦ —

LONDON :
SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, AND CO.

STATIONERS' HALL COURT, LUDGATE STREET.

MDCCCXXXIX.

422,

LONDON :
BRADBURY AND EVANS, PRINTERS,
WHITEFRIARS.



PREFACE.

THE following Letters were written in fulfilment of a promise, made previous to the commencement of the tour they describe, to some friends residing in distant parts of the world ; and the writer's intention was simply to communicate to them such information and impressions as he received during the journey, in the briefest possible manner. It is therefore hoped that these pages may be considered to be, as they really are, notes, or hasty sketches,—intended chiefly to gratify personal friends, and making no pretension to the character of finished productions, such as the public usually look for.

The larger portion of their contents having indeed been published in two of the monthly

magazines, soon after they were written, it is principally in order to have an opportunity of correcting a multitude of errors, with which both the author and the printer are chargeable, that they have been made to assume their present form.

LONDON, *June*, 1839.

LETTERS FROM GERMANY.

HAMBURG, JULY 1836.

THE reminiscences of a stormy passage from Hull to Hamburg offer nothing sufficiently agreeable for remark; nor need the latter place impose any very severe tax on my descriptive powers. Hamburg may be considered the Liverpool of Germany, and, as you are sufficiently familiar with the latter, it will be unnecessary for me to describe the former with much minuteness.

The banks of the Elbe are particularly flat and uninteresting until you approach within a few miles of the city, when the Holstein side, which is prettily ornamented by the villas of the Hamburg and Altona merchants, redeems the monotony of the scene by some glimpses of beauty. The right bank, or Hanover side, however, maintains the same low and unvaried appearance all the way up. One of the first peculiarities which must, even on landing, strike any English traveller familiar with the commercial dépôts of his own

country, is the absence of docks. Thousands of vessels are continually to be found lying in the Elbe, and being liable to be drifted against each other by every change of wind or tide, they must thus necessarily sustain frequent injury.

Exclusive of this, the expense to the merchants of lighterage, losses by delay, damage to goods, &c., must be enormous ; so that it is probable, that the saving of waste thus incurred would, in a few years, amount to a sum sufficient to repay the expense of erecting very spacious docks. The commander of the steamer which conveyed us to Hamburg expressed his opinion that the town was peculiarly well situated for such works, and that their erection would, in some measure, protect the city from the inundations to which it is at present occasionally subject. Their non-existence, therefore, would seem to afford a good illustration of the unspeculative disposition of the German people.

In Great Britain, acts of parliament are eagerly sought for the erection of docks, even at places where there is no trade, and little prospect that much can arise ; while in Hamburg, which has a commerce superior to that of any of the British ports, with the exception of two, the merchants are content to carry on their business, in this respect, in the same manner in which it was managed two centuries ago. The city abounds with wealth, which renders the above want, as well as some

others which are open to observation, the more remarkable. The streets here are generally narrow, and devoid of foot pavements; the houses high and of irregular architecture, excepting the modern and certainly elegant district surrounding the Alster basin. The brilliancy of gas-light has not yet found its way into the streets. As a compensation for this defect, however, there is an excellent police established in Hamburg, and consequently a total absence of beggars—indeed, it is a municipal offence to give money to applicants of this sort, and, I believe, renders the donor strictly speaking liable to a fine, the necessities of the poor being in another manner duly provided for.

The population of Hamburg consists, probably, of a greater proportional mixture of nations than that of any other commercial city in Europe, with the exception perhaps of Leghorn, where, from the circumstance of the Greek and Turkish costumes being, in a certain degree, blended with the mass, something of the aspect of a fancy ball is imparted to the crowded scene. The number of British residents here is stated to be from three to four thousand, nearly all of whom are deeply engaged in the various departments of commercial enterprise. A considerable proportion of the Hamburgers essay to speak English; but, as a specimen of the imperfect manner in which some of them do so, I may be permitted to mention that, one day,

having rung my bell in the Belvidere Hotel, the waiter, on coming to the door, inquired, with much apparent self-satisfaction as to his English acquirements, " Did you *bell de clock* ? "

The river Alster, which flows through the centre of Hamburg, reminds me much of the Grand Canal at Venice ; and, in like manner, some of the canals here may be considered to resemble, in all but the impurity of their waters, the minor briny veins of that city of the sea. It seems surprising that some of these should be allowed to remain in their present state of stagnation, while there is a large river immediately at hand, from which they might so easily be occasionally refreshed. There is not much to be remarked in praise of the personal appearance of the inhabitants of the place ; but they seem all disposed to be obliging, and what with their cafés, their theatres, their gardens and promenades, appear to pass their lives gaily and pleasantly. In one of the new and elegant cafés, (which, by the way, is illiberally exclusive as regards the numerous descendants of the tribes of Israel,) several hundred persons may be seen to assemble every evening, all of whom, if we except a few uninitiated strangers, while away the time in smoking cigars. The state of the atmosphere may therefore be imagined ! yet, in the midst of all, there are generally to be found a number of respectable females, of the Hamburg middle classes, met together to evince,

it would appear, their love of ice, smoke, music, and confusion.

On Sunday last, we went through several of the principal churches during the hours of morning service ; and I may, I think, venture to estimate their united congregations as not exceeding four hundred persons. A stranger might hence imagine the people to be as yet in a transition state between Catholicism and Protestantism, and to have thrown off the ceremonious observances of the one without having attained to the unostentatious devotion of the other. There are no paintings in any of the churches worthy of being remembered ; but it is usual to have portraits of the deceased clergymen suspended on the pillars,—though I must take leave to say, the large stiff Luther ruffs with which they are decked have neither a becoming nor a clerical appearance. In winter the churches are, however, stated to be much better attended.

If Europe be destined to remain at peace, Hamburg will soon become a great annual thoroughfare for travellers to Copenhagen, Stockholm, Petersburg, and Moscow ; for we cannot doubt that the migratory British, who have already exhausted the rest of Europe, will make themselves equally familiar before long with these great northern cities, aided as they may now be by the power of steam. The projected railroad from Hamburg to Lübeck would also much contribute to this

result, if his Majesty of Denmark would condescend to lend it the light of his countenance ; but, as such an improved communication might injure that part of his national revenue arising from Sound dues now received at Elsinore, such consent is unfortunately not likely to be given. The same narrow policy is stated as the reason why the public roads from Hamburg to Lübeck and the centre of Germany, through the Danish territory, are allowed to remain in a state of disrepair so great as to be almost impassable.

All the fortifications of Hamburg were, after 1814, thrown down, and the ground well and wisely laid out in pleasure-walks ; so that the town is thus surrounded by a beautiful belt of wood and shrubbery, along which the inhabitants enjoy their evening promenades — and, in this respect, certainly few cities can be better provided. The maid-servants of this place retain a singular custom, peculiar to their class, of always carrying, under one of their arms, when in the streets, a basket covered by a gay shawl ; it is understood to be borne often without contents, and seemingly as a badge indicating their position in life — indeed these characteristic baskets are often to be observed more gaily adorned than the persons of the fair domestics themselves.

The population of Hamburg is computed at about 140,000 ; and Altona, which may be called

its Wapping, though politically appertaining to Denmark, numbers about 25,000 more. Hamburg, Hanover, and Brunswick being, as it is alleged, under British influence, and because it is very decidedly their interest not to comply, have hitherto refused to accede to the German commercial treaty, the operation of which, it is supposed, will ultimately injure the trade of this port. Hamburg, however, must still continue, under any circumstances, to be a great *dépôt* for the exportation of the produce of that part of Germany which borders on the Elbe and its tributary streams, as well as for supplying those districts with colonial luxuries and the manufactured productions of foreign countries.

The windows of the dwelling-houses of all classes of inhabitants here are very generally ornamented with flowers and flowering shrubs. There is, perhaps, nothing which tends more to throw an air of tastefulness and refinement over second-class dwellings than the cultivation of these little hanging gardens, as they may not improperly be termed ;— by such ornaments, humble abodes become in a manner poetical, and we have little hesitation in judging more favourably of the inmates where such specimens of taste exist than where they are not found. It is universally remarked by strangers, that there is a greater number of deformed persons to be seen in Hamburg than are usually met with in

cities much more populous ; but whether this may arise from a scrofulous taint, or from improper treatment in infancy, must be decided by greater physiologists than your humble servant.

The excellent *table-d'hôte* at Eppendorf, in the suburbs, is much resorted to on Sundays ; and not a little whimsical is the motley assemblage of visitors to be found there on that day, comprising merchants and brokers of various countries, accompanied by their domestic partners ; clerks, buoyant with youth, wine, sans souci-ism, and a holiday ; ship captains, with their fat *fraus* ; and Jew shopkeepers, pressing champagne on their dark-eyed Rebeccas. A considerable proportion of the visitors, however, are of a respectable rank in life ; and, on the occasion when I was present, a young lady from one of the chief German capitals, though not possessed of any high claim to beauty, appeared to attract general admiration from the superior elegance of her demeanour. In point of manners, Hamburg is, of course, not the Almack's of Germany ; but nothing could have illustrated more significantly the difference in refinement between a courtly capital and a commercial city, than the sensation created by this lady's envied and elegant deportment.

BERLIN, AUGUST 1836.

Many circumstances cause me to regret that you did not realise your intention of accompanying Mr. C. and me to Hamburg; and as I flatter myself with the agreeable hope that this feeling may be in some degree mutual, I feel the more desirous to furnish you with a limited *carte du pays*.

The first fifty miles of our journey from Hamburg to Berlin led through a flat, sandy, uninteresting country, and the road, owing to the negligence of the Danish government, is, during a great part of the way, all but impassable. Frequently during the night we were roused from our unavailing attempts to sleep by a crash which seemed to announce to us that the whole fabric of the Prussian *schnellpost* was going to pieces, in consequence of having got into one of the thousand ruts with which the road is ploughed. On reaching Mecklenburg, however, matters improved considerably, and we found that the Prussian roads are excellent. The face of the country, as well as the quality of the soil, also underwent a favourable change soon after entering that kingdom.

Nevertheless the farmers appear eminently unscientific: their fields are quite undivided, rye is the grain chiefly cultivated by them, and the system of agriculture is decidedly bad;—for example, notwithstanding the suitability of the soil, not a single field of turnips was to be seen between Hamburg

and Berlin. To atone for these deficiencies, the people appear to be a sturdy, healthy, and respectable yeomanry, and their residences exhibit every sign of comfort.

Passing by the fortress of Spandau, where the Prussian state prisoners are usually confined, as well as Charlottenburg, one of the King's summer palaces, we entered Berlin through the splendid Brandenburg gate, which is ornamented by a figure of Victory, seated in a car, drawn by four high-actioned bronze horses. This group made an excursion to Paris during the late war, to pay homage to the great Conqueror of the day; but, on the return of peace, the horses were brought back in triumph to their former quarters in Berlin.

The beautiful linden or lime-tree walk which leads from this gate to the centre of Berlin, is one of the finest promenades anywhere to be met with, and is the usual evening resort of the citizens;—on both sides of this walk the public buildings and the palaces are numerous, spacious, and handsome.

Berlin is generally admitted to take a lead among the capitals of Germany, and perhaps even among those of Europe, for elegance; and, being a modern city, it is all built on a system of regularity which contributes much to both its convenience and to the beauty of its appearance. In the better parts of the town, the streets run in straight lines, and cross each other at right angles; one of them

(Frederick Street) extending to the length of two English miles. They are well paved, are lighted with gas, and a considerable number of them have side-paths for foot-passengers ; but the sewers on either side are open, and are full of matter offensive to the senses. The continued existence of so serious a nuisance, in such a capital, may well excite the astonishment of a stranger, more especially after cholera has so recently and so seriously admonished nearly all Europe that disease is the natural and almost certain punishment of such negligence. To an English eye, also, the absence of railed areas, and of steps leading up to the doors of the various houses, very materially detracts from the comely appearance of this, as well as of all the other cities of the Continent.

The sluggish river Spree flows through the centre of the city ; and at points somewhat distant from it there are placed, as a resource in the event of fire, numerous tubs of slimy water, which stand at the corners of the various streets. The supply thus provided is, I conceive, too inconsiderable to be of much avail in the exigence which it is intended to meet ; and the effect on the atmosphere during hot weather is neither agreeable nor healthful. Iron cisterns placed in the same positions would certainly be infinitely preferable, and might be so constructed as rather to contribute to the elegance of the streets than detract from it.

The tastefully-trimmed acacia trees which ornament the pleasure walks in front of the Museum, appeared to my eyes, perhaps from their greater novelty, to be even more graceful objects than the orange-tree avenues which usually occupy similar situations in the French public gardens. The Museum itself is an elegant modern building, and its architecture, but above all its double line of columns, may be dwelt upon with pleasure even by an eye that is familiar with the beautiful Exchange, or the Madeleine Church at Paris. Though containing many hundred pictures, this gallery boasts comparatively few of high merit, at least I did not feel struck by any of them to the extent that has frequently happened elsewhere. The collection of the early Italian school is sufficiently extensive; there are two esteemed paintings by Raphael and Corregio, many good portraits, particularly one of a Jewish Rabbi, by Rembrandt, and a curious picture of the Waters of Youth, into which old women are represented as entering covered with age and wrinkles, and from which they emerge full of youth and loveliness. It is amusing to observe the years that seem to have been flung away at each step of the pilgrims towards the youthful side. This gallery is, perhaps, sufficient to create a taste for the fine arts, but scarcely to content one that has previously feasted on higher excellence. The sculpture department presents a beautiful statue of

Hebe, by Canova, besides some good antiques, one of which is an interesting representation of a youth in the attitude of devotion.

The Arsenal, undoubtedly, ranks next in architectural elegance to the Museum, and the colossal armour-clad figures which surmount its exterior walls produce a fine and appropriate effect. Among the cannon exhibited within it are some brass pieces, taken at Varna during the last Turkish war, and presented by the Emperor of Russia to his Majesty Frederick William: these, to my eyes at least, certainly appeared somewhat in the light of a first-fruit offering.

The principal Palace here is very large and of handsome architecture, but is much out of repair,—the King, with that amiable private-life taste for which he is remarkable, preferring to reside in one of smaller dimensions. The Crown Prince occupies apartments in the Grand Palace, and having been permitted to visit it, we were gratified by an examination of some good busts and pictures, besides many curious and elegant mechanical and ornamental objects. The busts of Frederick the Great were to me peculiarly interesting, though the form of head is not such as a phrenologist would expect in a king having that supplementary title of distinction attached to his name. Dr. Channing's essay on the character of Napoleon, showing that to be a great conqueror does not

necessarily bespeak a first-rate order of mind, appears to offer the only solution of the phrenological difficulty; for, if Frederick had not been a victorious king, and the friend of Voltaire, it is more than questionable whether his philosophical productions would have served to distinguish him. One of his best claims to greatness may perhaps be stated to consist in having assisted to lay the foundation of that system of general national education under which Prussia has since attained such a high state of intelligence; though it is possible that a mind, constituted like his, may have viewed compulsory education merely as the first step in a system of military discipline.

In the principal street, as well as on the bridge which crosses the river, many military monuments stand forth in honour of Prussian heroism, and among them is a colossal bronze statue of Prince Blücher—or Marshal Forward, as the people here love to call him. The figure is bold, and the countenance expresses much energy of character. While surveying the bronze mustachios which ornament the warrior's lip, I was amused by the recollection of an anecdote related of him when in London with the allied sovereigns. Being in a crowded saloon of fashion, and somewhat inconvenienced by the pressure of the ladies, all anxious to shake the hand of the lion of his day, the Marshal attempted a gallant diversion in his own favour by kissing

some of his fair assailants—no way doubting that such a reception would result in their retreat. His views, however, in this second “*Belle-Alliance*,” were not destined to be realised. The ruse proved wholly unsuccessful; and it was quaintly remarked, that the Prince had never before been so far wrong in his tactics, the ladies showing themselves much less averse to this military salute than he had anticipated.

Immediately outside of the principal gate of the city is the Thiergarten, where the inhabitants promenade, and spend their summer evenings. Further on, are the gardens which surround the palace of Charlottenburg—also much resorted to on Sundays. It is truly delightful to witness the well-conducted enjoyment of all classes at these suburban retreats, where music, conversation, and sipping cooling refreshments, while away the time. The ladies of each party are generally engaged in the homely occupation of knitting,—not silk purses, but veritable cotton stockings,—one of the few employments which appears not to impede conversation; and were one to judge from the result here, might indeed be rather conceived to assist it.

Berlin is considered one of the cities of Germany most celebrated for female beauty. The ladies are, literally speaking, fair, and peculiarly happy in the elegance of their figures. They walk with much feminine grace, and are, above all, esteemed

the most literary, talented, and high-bred of the German women.

I had one day the accidental good fortune to see one of these belles standing opposite to the most faultless and beautiful creation of art which adorns the picture-gallery; and so equal were the rival claims to admiration of the animate and the inanimate beauty, that it would have been difficult to decide on which to bestow the palm, had not the former, possibly imagining the comparison that could not fail to be made, been piqued into assuming her prettiest smile, and the victory was then no longer doubtful.

A modest mausoleum which has been erected within the Park of Charlottenburg contains a beautiful marble monument to the memory of Louise, the much-loved and long-lamented Queen of his present Majesty. It is a full-length figure, representing her own lovely person; and it is worthy of remark that Professor Rauch, by whom it was executed, was originally an attendant on her Majesty, who, discovering that he possessed a natural talent for sculpture, had caused him to be sent to Rome for the better cultivation of that art. A higher feeling than professional fame may thus be conceived to have inspired the sculptor, and all who have seen the monument can attest how admirably it has succeeded in animating the marble.

Potsdam is twenty English miles from Berlin, and is pleasantly situated at the point where the river Havel spreads itself into a succession of lakes, affording in this respect a striking contrast to the arid plain in the midst of which Berlin stands. In addition to its elegance as a town, it contains the first military school in the country, and is adorned by a multitude of handsome public buildings, while the immediate neighbourhood boasts several palaces, the residences of the various members of the royal family. Some of the latter contain pictures of merit, as well as sculpture and other objects, to see which fully occupied us one day, and afforded considerable gratification. Near the palace of Sans Souci may still be seen the celebrated mill for which its humble owner so long boldly and successfully contended with the great Frederick, in the way of whose projected improvements it chanced to stand. The miller's independence has immortalised him in Prussian history, and, considering the anecdotes related of his Majesty's temper, it must be allowed that few persons in humble life could have evinced an equal degree of moral courage.

It was at Sans Souci that Frederick spent much of his leisure time in the society of those talented men that he had laboured to draw around him, and Voltaire was here, for a certain period, his guest.

On one of these occasions it was suggested by a *philosophe*, that female society was alone wanting to render the charms of their Elysium complete; but to this the King, contrary to the precepts of gallantry as well as true philosophy, tartly replied, that previous to the admission of such rebellious angels, it would be necessary to alter the name of his palace, as that of Sans Souci would then no longer be appropriate. His eccentric Majesty is reported to have maintained no inconsiderable measure of discipline even among his literary companions, and to this he doubtless supposed that ladies would not readily render themselves amenable.

In one of the churches, enclosed in a plain coffin, without either monument or inscription, are deposited the remains of the royal conqueror and philosopher.

The Peacock Island, which adorns this neighbourhood, is a beautifully ornamented summer fairy-land belonging to the royal family, and is much visited. In addition to the high-plumaged "exquisites" from which it derives its name, it affords protection to a considerable muster of the other varieties of living creatures, who are scattered amongst its winding walks; it is in short a zoological garden on a large scale, and what with ornamental woods, exotic plants, and imitated ruins, is truly a unique and lovely spot.

But to return to the unexhausted curiosities of Berlin. The royal library contains 400,000 volumes; and it is exceedingly gratifying to observe the liberal principle on which the public have free access to its contents, all known respectable inhabitants being permitted to carry books to their private residences. It was also with much pleasure that I perceived it to be well stored with new and useful publications; and, though I was only enabled to observe this with reference to English books, yet similar attention is doubtless paid to the literary productions of other countries.

The museum of natural history contains the usual *quantum* of fish, birds, quadrupeds, minerals, and so forth; but to a person who has previously visited many similar institutions, it becomes uninteresting and tedious to examine in detail an array of stuffed tigers and alligators for the hundredth time. How different is this feeling of irksomeness from that sustained interest which is afforded by a picture gallery, even where the works are of second-rate merit!

Numerous principles of liberality appear to be acted on by the Prussian government, for which I conceive adequate justice is scarcely awarded to it in our country. One of the most important of these is, that both Catholics and Protestants are by law equally admissible to public appointments; and, furthermore, that the clergy of both religions are

paid by government in an equitable proportion. It may certainly be thought, according to our English ideas, that they are poorly recompensed, their stipends varying from two hundred to six hundred Prussian dollars—that is, from 30*l.* to 90*l.* a-year, according as their duties are performed in town or country; and some, it is stated, combine the functions of teacher with those of their sacred calling. Divinity is thus, of course, in Prussia not the profession of the aristocracy; and I am not aware that any practical inconvenience results from its not being so, unless that possibly the highest classes in society may miss the wholesome moral influence which is diffused in England by clergymen mixing among them on terms of equality. This evil, however, if it be one, should perhaps be considered as more than counterbalanced by the nearer equality of the clergy with the majority of their flocks, as their humble origin and moderate means do not afford any pretence for holding themselves above the performance of all the varied duties of their station.

Protestant dissenters are (probably in consequence) much less numerous in Prussia than in Britain, where the humble classes generally seek, from the more lowly dissenting clergy, that sympathy and personal intercourse so often denied them by the aristocratic members of the English church. It seems probable, however, that the better adaptation of our establishment to the tastes of the

middle and lower classes may, to some extent, be yet accomplished by the parish missionary system now in progress.

In Britain we hear much of religious liberty ; yet the true feeling seems wanting—for the animosity between Irish Protestants and Irish Catholics could scarcely be surpassed by the rancour of savage tribes living under a heathen dispensation ; in Prussia, and throughout Germany, the state of opinion seems to be widely different. A philosophical spirit of religious toleration appears generally to prevail ; and it is considered comparatively unimportant, for all the purposes of civil and social life, to which of the Christian sects a man may belong. This happy state of feeling may probably arise, in a great measure, from the wise rule which causes Protestant and Catholic children to be educated in the same schools, and accustoms them to associate from infancy as friends and companions, without reference to points of faith. The favourable results to be anticipated from the pursuit of a similar course in Ireland, were once happily illustrated by the Rev. Sidney Smith, when he adduced the answer elicited from the cage-keeper on Waterloo Bridge, who exhibits cats, dogs, rats, mice, and birds, occupying the same apartment, and living in harmony by virtue of the principle of early habit. On being questioned as to how such a marvellous state of intercourse was contrived to be produced, he simply

replied, " I brings them up together." This humble philosopher and his cage might therefore with propriety be exhibited as a practical answer to Mr. O'Sullivan and others, who preach against the united national system of education in Ireland.

Berlin contains many fine churches ; but none of them either old or elegant enough to demand particular comment—that which the king usually frequents was well filled, but the others which we visited were thinly attended.

The army is here at present the chief profession adopted by the sons of the aristocratic classes ; but manufacturing and commercial interests are now fast arising within the kingdom, which, joined to the higher intellectual respectability distinguishing the professions and even commerce, will no doubt cause these pursuits shortly to attract more favourable attention from the Prussian youth. The army of this kingdom is computed to be about 200,000 strong ; which, to one's English ideas, appears a very unnecessary occupation of human energy, that might be better devoted to the useful purposes of civil life. This view must appear still more striking, when we consider that Prussia has no colonies to defend, that her king is much beloved, and his government well administered and deservedly popular.

Every competent male subject of the kingdom is compelled to devote three years to military

service, that is, from about the age of eighteen to twenty-one—the only exception to this rule being in favour of such wealthy young men as may be considered to be sooner perfect in their training, and who thus escape by serving one year, provided they do so without receiving pay, uniform, or being otherwise of expense to the government. All these are termed the regular army. Having served this period, these soldier-citizens are thenceforward liable to an annual drilling, up to their fortieth year of age, and are termed the *landwehr*. After that period, they are, I believe, denominated the *land-sturm*, and are for the future allowed to enjoy a comparative military *otium cum dignitate*.

A considerable course of military study is required before a commission can be obtained by a youth in the Prussian army; and, on mentioning to a lady, at Berlin, whose family were connected with the service, that, in England, young men often purchased commissions, and frequently underwent no previous preparation, she could scarcely, I believe, have been more surprised had I stated that they commenced the practice of law or physic without preparatory study. The sons of officers appear to be entitled to enter the military schools almost as a matter of right, and, in due season, they are usually provided with appointments; by which means, military life becomes something like an affair of caste in Indian communities.

The Prussian troops are generally considered to be equal to any in Europe in point of discipline and appearance ; and the system of training every citizen as a soldier is probably the best that could be devised for the defence of a country, and the worst for purposes of foreign conquest. Citizens thus instructed would, no doubt, defend their own country with enthusiasm ; but it requires professional soldiers long trained to the recklessness of a camp, to go through foreign campaigns, and the siege of cities, *con amore*. Therefore, whenever the Prussian government may desire to carry on a war contrary to popular feeling, it will be powerless, such soldiers not being military machines, but feeling themselves entitled to exercise their judgments on the cause in which they may be engaged. During the period of French dominion, the old military reputation of Prussia became obscured ; and it was only after a long endurance of wrongs, coupled with a liberal change in the system of government, that the national spirit was again roused to the performance of distinguished deeds, and that Leipsic and Waterloo redeemed its military credit.

The extent of loss sustained in battle by the Prussian army between the years 1813 and 1815, is, I have been informed, beyond what would readily be credited. No sooner, indeed, had the people of the kingdom been roused to a feeling of resistance and revenge, than each village, willingly,

sent forth the bravest of its sons, and the walls of nearly every parish-church now record the names of those who fell in this glorious war of liberation.

One can scarcely too much admire the wisdom, as well as the taste, which has thus throughout Prussia given to the memory of bravery and patriotism, without distinction of rank, so sacred and popular a record, in the temples of religion.

Being now a great military power, the Prussians are perhaps too apt to consider themselves as *la grande nation* of Germany; and this assumption of superiority draws upon them a certain degree of unpopularity among the people of the smaller states.

The fact seems now undeniable, that Prussia is the most universally educated of the nations of Europe; all parents being, by law, compelled to send their children to school, for a certain course of education, and no fees being taken from those who cannot afford to pay them. Thus, throughout the kingdom, nearly every person can read and write, besides possessing a respectable portion of useful information. The ultra-Toryism of England, which is reported to discourage popular education, certainly contrasts, in this respect, very unfavourably with the absolutism of Prussia. It would appear from a comparison of the results of the Prussian system with our own, as though a government law of public instruction were necessary in

every country, in order to secure an enlightened and uniform system of national education ; for, without some such authority, the modern educational improvements find their way slowly and imperfectly into remote districts.

It seems to be generally expected here, that the new German Commercial Treaty, whereof Prussia is the head, will do much for the industrial interests of the country, as its principle is that of imposing such duties on foreign manufactures as must of necessity create an internal supply. This treaty has been much commented on, and is certainly an ungracious return to England for her unrequited free-trade concessions ; but that it will prove advantageous to the wealth and industry of Prussia appears to be beyond all question.

Prussia, Bavaria, Saxony, Wirtemberg, Baden, Hesse-Darmstadt, Hesse-Cassel, Nassau, Frankfurt, &c., with a population of near thirty millions, have thus united themselves, as it were, into one community, so that all descriptions of merchandise may pass free from any one of these states to any of the others. Their frontiers are guarded by custom-house establishments, where the duties are received ; and these are, in due season, divided among the various governments, in the proportion of their respective population. The duties on manufactured cottons imported from England are stated to be such as virtually to exclude all but the finer descriptions of

goods ; and, in consequence, numerous manufactories are now rapidly springing up along the Rhine, more particularly at Elberfeld and Crefeld.

One advantage that will probably accrue from the increased attention which Prussia is now directing to commerce and manufactures, must no doubt be, that such new and ramified interests and occupations will arise in consequence, as must necessarily cause her people to be more than ever disinclined to war, and will thus afford a fresh guarantee for the peace of Europe.

If an abundant circulation of paper-money be a certain proof of commerce, that proof is here met with ; and a further evidence is afforded, that it is the quantity of a paper currency, and not the small amount which the individual scraps represent, that vitiates its value ; for in Prussia notes of the value of one dollar—that is, three shillings each—issued either by or under the authority of Government, circulate freely. These have not, however, banished silver coin, which is, in fact, very abundant ; but the paper circulation being, as I understand, a Government concern, there is not the same inducement to carry it to a vicious and variable excess as when the issue proceeds from private bankers. England herself may possibly, at some future period, condescend to take a lesson on this important subject from Prussia.

The Prussian noblesse are numerous, and gene-

rally poor, which is perhaps, in some measure, the consequence of an arrangement made by his present Majesty's Government about twenty years since, whereby the rural tenantry were rendered independent of their landlords, on the payment of a small fixed rent. Those farmers, therefore, who are not absolute proprietors, may, nevertheless, be considered comfortably independent, the fixed rent-charge not being very burdensome. A rural population, more happily and independently situated, is in consequence not often to be met with :

“ Whose herds with milk, whose fields with bread,
Whose flocks supply them with attire ;
Whose trees in summer yield them shade,—
In winter, fire.”

Prussia, in this respect, may be considered as presenting an extreme contrast to the rural misery and discontent of Ireland, where the majority of the people are rack-rented by unfeeling absentee landlords, and taxed for a semi-sinecure Church of another faith.

There are, I believe, few persons of large incomes in Berlin ; and the complaint of limited means is so general, that, probably, of no other large capital could it with equal justice be said that it is fashionable to be poor. Nor, perhaps, could a stronger proof of the want of even national wealth be adduced than the simple fact, that the capital of a kingdom containing fourteen

millions of subjects should number scarcely 250,000 inhabitants.

Having chanced to be in Berlin on the King's birth-day, we had a favourable opportunity of observing the strong feeling of loyalty which animates the people ; and the occasion proved to us that there is not a more popular monarch in Europe than King Frederick William. The gentlemen at our *table-d'hôte* were, during dinner, busy drinking his Majesty's health in detached groups ; and, incited by the kindly feeling around, we also drank it, in our national manner, our kind German travelling companion having first intimated to the company that the "*Englanders*" wished to toast the King's health with three times three. Our display of enthusiasm was well received ; but the apparent novelty of our hurras seemed to create so much surprise, that they were not sufficiently seconded for effect. The good King of Prussia has long earned for himself the most honourable of human titles, in being called " The Preserver of the Peace of Europe ;" and that first of blessings depends probably more for its preservation on his life than on that of any other potentate. His Majesty, some years since, married a noble and lovely lady, the Princess of Leignitz, without, however, conferring upon her the queenly title ; and the example of their united lives is pronounced to be all that is amiable. King Frederick William,

among his many estimable qualities, is understood to be exceedingly humane, the consequence of which is, that capital punishments are here seldom heard of. The Crown Prince is also considered a pious and moral character, and is reputed to possess considerable quickness and conversational talent. "*Tout ce qu'il dit est bon,*" said one of my fair informants, in allusion to his Royal Highness. It may be so ; but assuredly the people of Prussia do not look forward to his succession without an apprehension of a more military rule, as well as of war and its attendant evils.

Much has been said of the strictness of the Prussian police ; nevertheless, were it not that the good order of the city suggested the conclusion, I should scarcely have been sensible that such an establishment existed. Here, as elsewhere on the Continent, a passport is of course necessary for all travellers.

In the civil departments of the public service here, the number of Government *employés* is very considerable. It is understood that all such functionaries in Prussia are required to be thoroughly competent to the duties of their situations ; and to the higher offices of the state, talent is the chief if not the sole recommendation. Such a system has, of course, produced an efficient government, and has tended rapidly to evolve the natural capabilities of the country. Indeed, the reputed

talent of the Prussian *employés* almost leads to the conclusion that absolute monarchs, from the greater responsibility of their positions, find it more necessary to secure a higher description of official talent than is the case with constitutional kings. This is certainly a strange admission for an Englishman to make ; yet, when it is considered that, in countries governed by popular assemblies, a powerful or specious speaker may often command place, be his habits of official business what they may, it must be acknowledged that the impression is not unwarranted. Instances of eloquent men, devoid of business qualifications, have been numerous among us ; of these Sheridan may be regarded as one of the most brilliant, and, all unfitted as he was for managing anything but the feelings of an audience, it is well known that he was more than once on the eve of obtaining very high official station. If, therefore, it should appear that eloquence in the senate is seldom to be found associated with a due devotion to the details of official business, it might become a question whether even Mr. Hume himself would not consent to a sort of duplicate government, to consist of two sets of men—one to speak, and another to act.

Prussia is probably at this moment the country *par excellence* where useful talent is most likely to elevate any person possessing it, to such public station as he may be pre-eminently qualified for ;

and it is to be feared that England has long exhibited the reverse of this state of things—the single qualification usually required for public employment there being that of interest.

A polite and respectable bookseller in this city informs us that the English language and literature have latterly become objects of continually increasing attraction, not only in Berlin, but generally throughout Germany. Besides Scott's novels, those of Bulwer and Captain Marryat are much read and admired; while Washington Irving and Cooper, the American authors, are also well known.

In censuring the polluted literature of modern France, our informant stated to us, that he had also found some objectionable matter in the latter productions of the English drama, and was consequently obliged to be very careful in his translations. He is probably correct; and, if so, the fact presents a melancholy instance of the national aptitude for evil impressions. The Germans, being strongly prejudiced against French morals, this kind of pollution is not likely to be received from that country in a direct way; but their feeling towards English literature is so favourable, that, if it should become tainted, the moral poison is more likely to reach them through that channel. The English press is thus charged with a double duty of watchfulness. The drama in Germany appears to be encouraged and maintained by the

various governments as a vehicle of refinement and rational public amusement; while a certain proportion of the productions of the British stage only pander to the feelings of the lower classes, and present coarse and often indelicate exhibitions, or spectacles, which go far to frustrate any endeavours that are made to create a higher standard of taste.—The opera-house and theatre here are handsome buildings, and the performances, which are under the King's especial patronage and almost direction, are of the first order.

The University of Berlin, though one of the most modern in Germany, has already attained a reputation perhaps higher than that of any other in the country. Students from all the other states repair hither, as to a place where the highest intellectual and social refinement which Germany offers is to be attained. The professorships here are probably more valuable appointments than elsewhere in Germany, which naturally affords the Government a command of talent; and it is understood that nothing short of the highest qualifications can lead to such appointments. Some of the professors are understood to be persons of rather more liberal political views than can be altogether agreeable to the feelings of the Court; and these are always chosen on account of talent, or as being the most distinguished amongst the private lecturers in Berlin.

Several of the roads leading out of the city are pleasantly lined, for a mile or more, with beautiful villas, having in front neatly cultivated gardens, abounding in flowers, and balconies overflowing with exotics. While enjoying our evening walk among these pleasant suburbs, the eye had frequently to search for some time before discovering the still more interesting family groups engaged in sipping their evening coffee in the open air, and nearly eclipsed to the view of the passers-by by clusters of their own hydrangeas and geraniums.

The country around Berlin is, however, it must be confessed, sadly deficient in beauty; and it is by no means libelling nature to describe the neighbourhood generally as a dreary plain. On resorting to the Tivoli Gardens, however, which are three English miles from the city, we found ourselves on the top of a mole-hill kind of mountain, which seemed maliciously placed there in order, as it were, to enable the censorious to spy the nakedness of the land more extensively than they otherwise could have done. These gardens, with their "Russian mountains," dancing saloons, and other *agrémens*, were laid out, at a great expense, only a few years ago, and opened under the most favourable auspices as a place of public amusement; but either the love of repose, the economy, or the fickleness of the Berliners, has already caused them to be entirely deserted. At

the termination of these gardens stands a handsome Gothic iron monument, in honour of the heroes and victories of the last war. In form (though less ornate), it somewhat resembles the plan of the cross which is proposed to be erected at Edinburgh to the memory of Sir Walter Scott.

DRESDEN, AUGUST 1836.

For one coming from the far distant *Ultima Thule*, to discover as I did in central Germany a colony of near and previously unknown relatives—speaking another language, and scarcely understanding that of their fatherland—was a circumstance sufficiently singular, and was well calculated to lend a further interest to a foreign country, by endowing it with the agreeable associations of home, and the sympathies of kindred. I know not why it is, that we are always predisposed to feel an interest in persons who speak our language imperfectly, unless possibly that it is gratifying to our *amour-propre* to find ourselves in some point superior to those who may, perhaps justly, claim superiority in other respects.

Much of the road from Berlin to Leipsic is lined with tall ungraceful poplars, after the usual manner of the Continent, the hedges, as well as the varied windings of the English roads, being both wanting. Towards Leipsic, however, the

country certainly assumed an appearance of agricultural richness, along with some improvement in its general aspect.

The *schnellpost*, by which we travelled, passed through Wittenberg, where Luther long resided, and where a monument has been erected to his memory. Our German fellow-travellers here embraced the opportunity to amuse us, by detailing anecdotes, and repeating some couplets, attributed to the great Reformer, breathing somewhat more strongly the spirit of worldly enjoyment than, in England, we should be willing to recognise as the sentiments of the great father of our Church. One of these anecdotes related, that in the house of Luther a mark is still visible on the wall, said to have been occasioned by an ink-bottle thrown by him at one of the spirits of the regions of darkness, which a heated imagination had conjured up on a vain errand to endeavour to dissuade him from attending the important Diet at Worms. The anecdote is well calculated to exhibit the high excitement which the great work in hand had created even in a mind so energetic and gifted as that of Luther.

Leipsic is an agreeable old town, of much business and wealth, containing about 40,000 inhabitants, who are chiefly engaged in commerce, and the operative departments of literature. The walls of the city having been taken down on the

restoration of peace, the ground which they occupied was laid out in pleasure walks, and tastefully planted with shady trees, thus forming delightful boulevards all round the town. Leipsic contains many curious old buildings, with high precipitous roofs, covered with little windows towards the sky, and the town is not deficient in good specimens of modern architecture, including an elegant University and an Hospital, lately erected.

The immediate neighbourhood of Leipsic is celebrated for the final destruction, as an organised army, of Napoleon's vast Russian expedition. The dreadful combat which here decided his fate, continued, it appears, with much obstinacy and uncertain result, for four days. Half a million of men are stated to have been engaged; and 50,000 French, with about the same number of the allies, were left dead on the field of battle. On one side there were present the Emperors of Russia and Austria, the king of Prussia, and several royal princes; on the other, Napoleon alone, the self-made Emperor and conqueror of half the world. In less than two hours after he retreated from the town of Leipsic, the allied sovereigns entered it in triumph. One of those instances of callous selfishness which have been often remarked in the French Emperor, when his personal necessities prompted them, appears to have been practised by him on this occasion. After having taken to rapid flight, with a few of his

guards, he is reported to have ordered the bridge, by which he had passed, to be blown up, in order to delay the pursuit of his enemies: thus also preventing the escape of his own troops, thousands of whom were, from the want of a bridge, drowned in the river Elster. It is understood that the French soldiery were much exasperated by this piece of selfishness and barbarity; but their chief continued his flight too rapidly to be overtaken by their reproaches.* In the garden of a gentleman residing in the suburbs, there are to be seen two monuments to the memory of Poniatowsky, the celebrated Polish commander, who, after being severely wounded, was drowned in the river, on this occasion, in October 1813, fighting on the side of the French at the head of his brave Poles.

The German commercial treaty will, it is here—perhaps erroneously—supposed, prove favourable to the commerce of Leipsic, which has hitherto been a grand dépôt of manufactures for the supply of Germany, Russia, Poland, Turkey, &c. Foreign manufactures, which are intended for the markets of the latter distant countries, may still be deposited in warehouses, and sold at Leipsic, without paying the duties which are chargeable on goods to be consumed within the limits of the con-

* Such was the intelligence communicated to us on the spot; but, having since been assured that the bridge was blown up through the mistake of a corporal, I shall leave you to decide between these opposite opinions.

federation. The present prosperity of this town may no doubt be satisfactorily inferred from the number of fine houses which are being erected in the suburbs; but its continuance as a great commercial dépôt, in the altered state of German commerce, is, I suspect, more than doubtful. A railroad, which is intended to connect Leipsic with Dresden, is already in a very forward state, and seems likely, ere long, to be continued onward to Vienna; in which case, taking steam-vessels on the Elbe and Danube into account, travellers may hope, at no very distant period, to be enabled to reach Constantinople from Hamburg within a fortnight.

The Rosenthal, which is a finely-wooded avenue of three English miles in length, in the suburbs of Leipsic, is much resorted to as a promenade—few English parks can indeed boast finer specimens of the giants of the forest, or more lovely openings than it presents to view.

The excellent *Hôtel de Saxe*, to which we resorted in Leipsic, is all that a traveller could reasonably desire, boasting a most delicious garden, and under the shade of one of its trees we sipped our morning coffee.

All the district of country between Leipsic and Dresden is very rich in corn-fields; and, after passing Meissen, some of the vine-clad hills on our left assumed much of the Rhine character of scenery. The white ornamental summer-houses

scattered along these hills, dedicated to the convivial grape, shone brightly in the morning sun as we passed them, and seemed to give assurance of the happy condition and tasteful fancy of the proprietors. Before entering Dresden we crossed, by a long and beautiful bridge, our old friend the Elbe, which had received our vessel from England at Hamburg three hundred miles lower down, and which is here still a broad and very respectable river, capable of bearing along the usual description of inland navigation vessels.

Dresden, containing 70,000 inhabitants, is an elegant and peculiarly quiet capital, much devoted to music and the fine arts. The so-called Japanese Palace owns a considerable and esteemed collection of sculpture, as well as of Egyptian antiquities; and on the latter of these subjects the professor, who kindly became our cicerone, took particular pleasure in descanting. His remarks were however, I much fear, too learnedly antique for his hearers. The gallery contains an excellent bust of Melancthon, to which one feels more disposed to attach the belief of authenticity and resemblance, than had it been met with at a greater distance from the field of his labours. The form of the head is peculiarly fine, as is also that of an antique bust (of, I believe, Julius Cæsar), which has been generally remarked as bearing a striking resemblance to Napoleon. In the same building we

found an extensive collection of the Dresden porcelain, arranged so as to show the progress of the art from its first rude productions up to its present state of comparative perfection. Above this collection, and within the same palace, is deposited the royal library, containing 250,000 volumes, and open to all persons desirous either of knowledge or literary recreation.

Dresden contains probably the best historical museum of ancient arms and armour that anywhere exists; and, to a person sufficiently conversant with German history, each of the more distinguished coats of mail could not fail to recal a thousand recollections and histories of heroism and chivalry. Exclusive however of this, which is no doubt the higher object of the arrangement, the gallery excites wonder by means of the variety and splendour of its warlike specimens,—from the rude antique battle-axe, till we reach the period of *civilisation*, which facilitated the dealing of death by means of the capacious blunderbuss and many-barrelled fusée.

The Dresden collection of crown jewels has quite a European celebrity, and its value is estimated at four millions of dollars. The brilliant sparkle of the diamonds, even by subdued daylight, was, to my unaccustomed eye, quite dazzling. This collection forms no doubt the finest exhibition of gems in Europe, and the green diamond is considered

unique for both its size and lustre. The late king of Saxony is reputed to have been the most faithful and attached of all Napoleon's allies, and in consequence of this fidelity none of the treasures of his capital were removed from Dresden, to lend a transitory glory to Paris.

Dresden is, considered with reference to the fine arts, the Florence of Germany, and its picture gallery is universally admitted to be the finest collection to be seen north of Italy. In point of quantity, though containing not less than 1500 pictures, it is not perhaps quite equal to the Louvre ; but it is much more *recherché*, and infinitely richer in the treasures of Italian art. The Dutch, Flemish, German, and Italian schools are all separately arranged ; and the latter is also divided into the earlier and the more perfect periods of its history.

There is here indeed so much variety, that every visitor may readily fix upon his favourite subjects, and luxuriate in the examination of them—from the exquisitely finished domestic realities of the Dutch painters, where it is almost possible to reckon the hairs in a mustachio or the twigs in a broom—up to the poetry of the art, as displayed by the Italian masters, in illustrations of the ancient mythology, traits of historical sentiment and heroism, or the more sublime and elevating mysteries of religion. Of the first of these there are exquisite specimens by Douw, Netscher, Denner,

Mieris, &c. ; while the Judgment of Paris, and two or three more subjects of a similar kind by Vanderwerf, appeared to combine the elegance of form and perfect colouring of Titian with the delicacy and exquisite finish of enamel. In proof of the beauty of these pictures by Vanderwerf, I may mention that a lady, with whose party ours had some conversation, was so enraptured on coming opposite to one of them, as to be impelled to the exclamation—"Beautiful ! beautiful ! beautiful !" —the feeling of admiration being for the moment too powerful to enable her to maintain the reserve which the subject might otherwise have suggested.

This gallery contains a number of the most eminent productions of Rubens ; but, not delighting in the robustness of form and coarseness of feeling which his pictures too often display, I shall not take the trouble to particularise them, notwithstanding their brightness of colouring and their vigour of action. The exquisite portraits of his sons, however, are free from the general fault ; and his Hercules Drunk is a peculiarly striking work. The Pitt diamond of the gallery, is the Madonna di San Sisto, by Raphael. This picture does not, I must however confess, being somewhat faded in its colouring, at first sight make its full impression ; but, after going round the gallery several times, my admiration was so much increased on each return, that at last it seemed to shine forth as the moon among the stars.

The tender and benevolent holiness of the Madonna's expression must be seen to be conceived. She is happily represented as treading on a cloud, on which she appears to float above the earth, along with her holy charge. In the infant Saviour's countenance the expression of quiescent divinity is also beautifully conveyed ; and the two seraphs looking up from the bottom of the picture are beyond all praise—their large, dark, lustrous eyes being quite heavenly. Raphael has, in the spirit of compliment, introduced in this work a portrait of the Pope of his day, bending down before the Virgin and offering his homage. In this delineation the painter's imagination could not take wing ; and, as might be expected, the common-place countenance of his Holiness affords a striking contrast to the heavenliness of the others. Near to this picture is a beautiful one on the same subject by Sasso Ferrato, in which the head of one of the angels appears equal to anything that art has produced, or that imagination can conceive. Three exquisite Carlo Dolcis also enrich this treasure-room of the gallery ; and of these St. Cecilia playing on the organ is an altogether lovely specimen of art. The Tribute Money, by Titian, is perhaps one of the most faultless pictures here ; and, though the countenance of the Saviour does not perhaps possess so much of the expression of divinity as may be met with in some other pictures, yet it abounds in a placid benignity, the effect

of which can scarcely be too much admired. Multitudes of fine portraits and historical pictures, as well as beautiful landscapes by Claude, Both, Berghem, and Ruysdael, call for unceasing admiration at every step which one takes through this interesting gallery. One room, which is devoted to portraits in water-colours, has likewise many charming specimens of that sister department of the great art, conveying to those who love to view "the human face divine," the softened charms of a hundred celebrated beauties. Dietrich, who has many pictures in the gallery, is apt to astonish one by the great variety of his styles ; indeed some of his figures would seem almost to approach to Vanderwerf's perfection of form and finish.

DRESDEN.

As, next in importance to literature and music, painting and sculpture may no doubt be ranked as the most efficient aids to the attainment of a certain refinement of taste, the combined result of all these prevailing influences may naturally be supposed to be visible in Dresden. There seems some reason, however, to doubt whether any moral benefit is conferred by picture galleries, unless, indeed, the subjects should chance to be selected with much more care than it has been in any case my fortune to observe on the Continent.

A greater number of young artists may be daily seen pursuing the study of their profession here than in any other gallery of Germany, and the copies on which many of them were engaged appeared highly respectable, insomuch that a person desirous to possess mementos of the gallery would scarcely pass them without inquiry. The annual exhibition of pictures by living artists, which chanced also to be open, was as interesting to us as visitors, as it was creditable to the state of art—indeed, in Dresden, with so much perfection to imitate, it could scarcely have been otherwise.

The commanding terrace walk, which here overlooks the Elbe, must be acknowledged to be one of the finest that any city can possess, and much resembles the cathedral walk at Basel; but Saxony's pride, the Elbe, though certainly a very beautiful river, is far from being equal to the Rhine, in so far particularly as the enchantment of a name is concerned.

Dresden and its surrounding neighbourhood contain the usual German proportion of music-gardens, concert-rooms, and theatres; and there is a pretty air of quiet gentility in the style of the people, who appear to enjoy life in that unostentatious participation of the pleasures of music and conversation, which consorts well with the national character. A great deal of knitting-work is per-

formed by the ladies at the evening garden-parties in the midst of music, such as few places even in Germany can command ; for, though the Paganinis of the art may resort to the larger and more wealthy capitals, it is believed that no city of similar extent is in the enjoyment of better musicians than Dresden. If I am not much misinformed, the Saxon ladies, and indeed those of Germany generally, are in the habit of performing many domestic duties which English ladies of a similar position in life would be apt to consider degrading. Whether this practice arises from necessity or choice, it might be somewhat difficult to determine ; but I strongly suspect the latter to be the case, and that it is their natural taste for household matters which induces the German ladies to superintend over-much the details of their domestic arrangements.

His Majesty of Saxony, whom I had yesterday the pleasure of seeing, is a rather young man, and though sometime married, is without family. In appearance he is handsome, and his manner of returning the salutes of passers by is perfectly agreeable. He seems exceedingly popular in his dominions, and is, in fact, rather the chosen sovereign of the people than their legitimate monarch ; for, when, after July 1830, some spirit of dissatisfaction showed itself here, the feeling was immediately allayed by the appointment of his present

Majesty to conduct the government as regent. Thus associated in power with his uncle, the then reigning sovereign, the course of political events has since been smooth; and the present king's father, having by reason of his religious intolerance, as well as other causes, been passed over in the line of succession, now resides in Dresden, as the subject of his son. Saxony is blessed with a Constitution, and a Chamber of Peers and Deputies; so that, besides being the most fortunate country in respect of soil, and the richest in mineral productions and manufacturing industry, it is considered, in regard to the nature of its government, as the most liberal kingdom of Germany.

In point of extent it is, however, alas! sadly diminished; for the Congress of Vienna arbitrarily caused this ancient kingdom to pay a severe penalty for the adhesion of its king to the cause of Napoleon, by surrendering a considerable portion of its territory to fortunate Prussia. Saxony, which has often done so much in the olden time, may now therefore be considered as too weak even for self-defence.

To an Englishman this country is doubly interesting, for it may justly be considered as a more remote fatherland; and I believe districts might be pointed out in Britain where the blood has not yet been Normanised, and where the Saxon form and features exist unaltered. The women of

Saxony are generally of fair complexion, and enjoy in Germany no inconsiderable reputation in regard to beauty ; but the men, though naturally good-looking, deform their faces by mustachios, and spoil their complexions by the inveterate habit of smoking, which appears to occupy the same place in their regard that the *dolci far niente* does in Italy. The ordinary current of mind is here so quiet and lethargic, and the demeanour so disciplined by rule, that the people of Dresden do our bustling English travellers who come among them, and whose active habits contrast so strongly with their own, the undeserved honour of considering them flighty, and perhaps something more. On the other hand, our countrymen are disposed to indulge an opinion that the people of Saxony would be considerably improved, by having their systems in like manner volatilized, and the stream of thought quickened, by an infusion of Norman vivacity. A lady from the Emerald Isle, who is sojourning here, and certainly carries innocent independence of action to its extreme limit, is at this moment exciting astonishment in the society of Dresden, by disregarding the long-established *réglemens* of the place, for punctiliousness and decorum are in this quarter much studied, and perhaps nearly as much esteemed as the “ weightier matters of the law.”

Excepting some districts of Switzerland and the country on the banks of the Rhine, this beautiful

neighbourhood is one of those which appears to me to offer the greatest number of inducements, as a residence, to quietly disposed English idlers, to whom any alteration in circumstances may render German economy indispensable, or to those whom other causes may render their own country temporarily distasteful.

The German people appear to be such as the English could naturally love and respect, being sincere in their manners, devoted to domestic life, literature, philosophy, and the fine arts; the language, indeed, presents a serious obstacle to a nearer intercourse, and one which, to many of our countrymen, must prove insurmountable. Without any stock of German words, and with only a smattering of French, you will naturally feel disposed to ask how *I* contrive to get on; but we have by accident had the good fortune to meet with a well-informed German travelling companion, who is desirous to practise his stock of English; and have also frequently encountered other Germans who spoke either English or French. Thus have our arrangements been facilitated, and by converting myself into a travelling point of interrogation, I can hardly fail to acquire some superficial information as we are passing along. A considerable proportion of the German gentlemen whom we encounter have had university educations; indeed the standard of intelligence throughout the country

is very high, while the amiable willingness to communicate it seems to be universal.

Young ladies are here taught music, drawing, languages, &c. in probably the same proportions as in England; but it is understood that the female mind in Germany is more deeply tinctured with sentiment than in our country. Whether this difference is natural, or may be caused by training, it might be difficult to ascertain; but it no doubt produces an unfavourable effect on their happiness in real life, after the romantic visions of the *première jeunesse* are past. There are certainly about them a tender confidingness of expression, which tends to convey to an observer the impression of sentimentalism, and perhaps wins its way to the heart more readily than even the lustre of an Italian eye, or the self-possessed elegance of English or French ladies. If a visitor of a few weeks might presume to form an opinion on such a delicate subject, I would hazard the remark that the ladies of Germany appear not only *positively* and *comparatively*, but really *superlatively* feminine in their demeanour. Should you, however, prefer their praises in humble rhyme, I will submit that—

Some love to view the dark brunette,
While many choose the fair,
And some to gaze on eyes of jet,
As sparkling blues are rare—
But German maids, with eyes of blue,
May well reward a knight that's true.

Though Italy's the land of love,
 And Spain the land of grace,
 The Saxon fair have charms above
 Granada's Moorish race—
 And German maids, with eyes of blue,
 May well reward a knight that's true.

The belles of France have much *esprit*,
 And England's proud ones beauty;
 But simple German maids for me,
 With nature, love, and duty—
 For German maids, with eyes of blue,
 May well reward a knight that's true.

The swarthy sunburnt Afric race,
 Boast beauty somewhat brown;
 But who would praise a sable face,
 Lest fairer angels frown—
 For German maids, with eyes of blue,
 May well reward a knight that's true.

The classic Athens of the north,
 May boast its fair *bas bleus*:
 But German girls have every worth,
 And are the *juste milieu*—
 And German maids, with eyes of blue,
 May well reward a knight that's true.

The three accomplishments, *par excellence*, by which it is understood that a German young gentleman may best succeed in making himself acceptable to his lady-love, are stated to be waltzing and horsemanship *ad libitum*, and smoking in moderation. It is reasonable to presume, however, that a preference for the latter accomplishment is not a matter of absolute taste on the part of the ladies, but may rather arise from the impossibility of finding a cavalier who is less devotedly the *serviente* of tobacco than of love.

Both morally and intellectually, the people here afford an extreme contrast to the neighbours by whom you are at present surrounded in Wales—for the Germans of this district are considered to possess knowledge, sobriety, civility, and integrity, some of which qualities I humbly conceive your Ancient Britons do not particularly abound in.

I cannot conclude this letter without proving to you that I have not been so engrossed by the higher attractions of my journey as to have entirely forgotten our former agricultural conversations. I shall resume that subject therefore by saying—that the soil of Saxony appears to be excellent, and the crops of grain, which are now being gathered in, are abundant; but the fundamental item of good agriculture, green crop, is much wanting, while enclosures and drainage are almost unknown, and a proper system of rotation little understood. Being a brother dyspeptic, no less than a fellow-worshipper of the science of agriculture, you will not, I trust, feel disinclined to listen to my testimony as to the effect which travelling produces on health. That a person to whom, when sedentary, two mutton chops have often proved a surfeit, and a glass of sherry negus over exciting, should be able, under the influence of travelling and sight-seeing, to labour through half the tedious variety of a German *table-d'hôte* and drink a pint of wine, with much benefit to both health and spirits, is not more wonderful than

strictly true. Should any of your friends, therefore, ever acquire the disagreeable habit of viewing some of the affairs of life through a jaundiced medium, by all means send them to travel, for the sentiment *cælum non animum mutant*, is certainly not orthodox. Indeed, a person is probably never so pleasurably independent, and agreeably excited, as when, with a three months' stock of apparel packed up, a fine, unexplored country before him, full of cities and objects of interest, and, above all, a companion of congenial tastes, willing to be pleased—he goes forth to see the world.

P.S.—You are no doubt aware that, in all the continental hotels, it is usual for each inmate to lock the door of his sleeping apartment on leaving it—and this practice is quite a necessary one, as the stairs and passages of the larger establishments are, in fact, nearly as public as third-rate streets. Having happened on one occasion to omit this precaution, I had the misfortune to find myself, on returning, *minus* a cloak, as well as several other less important articles of apparel; and though the loss sustained was capable of being easily remedied, yet the circumstance had another effect, more disagreeable, since it compelled me to modify an opinion which had been formed from their physiognomy and demeanour, that the Saxons here did not require Alfred-like laws to make them honest.

Indeed, I still feel disposed to account for this loss, by supposing that some professor of the light-fingered art from one of the larger cities had been passing through Dresden, especially as such occurrences are unusual here, and as an English gentleman living in a neighbouring hotel was laid under contribution on the following day, to the extent of several hundred dollars.

AUGUST, 1836.

As the fates unkindly decided against our travelling together, I can only express a hope that your tour in Switzerland may have abounded, not less than mine in Germany, in all the most agreeable materials of pleasure and interest.

Yesterday, soon after leaving Dresden for the Saxon Switzerland, while basking in the yet endurable brightness of the morning sun, we passed by Pilnitz, the summer palace of the king, beautifully situated on the Elbe, and rendered famous by the royalist political councils which were held in it during the early period of the French revolution.

Before taking leave of Saxony, I may, perhaps, be permitted to remark, that it seems to hold a similar rank in Germany to what Tuscany does in Italy—being a small, productive, well-governed state, as well as a principal seat of the fine arts. The reigning princes in both countries appear to be happy

in the affections of their subjects, while the people have equal cause to rejoice in the amiable dispositions of their sovereigns. This miniature Switzerland, on which we have just entered, is the south-eastern boundary of Saxony, and is deserving of all that has been, or can be said in its praise as the fairy-land of northern Germany, a region where the feelings may be refreshed, and the spirit of romance imbibed from nature's sources. To describe the height of its rocks or the depth of the valleys, would be a tedious task ; but, should you ever be in this quarter, and feel disposed to make an experiment in luxurious ruralising, I could, with confidence, recommend your being carried through some of these lovely valleys in one of the chairs that are to be found at the various stations. This peculiar mode of viewing the country was an indulgence for which a hot day, added to the lassitude arising from a severe cold, afforded more than sufficient excuse to an indolent disposition ; and having formerly, in a state of less advanced experience, considered a sofa and a new novel as the acmé of indolent enjoyment, I feel happy, by means of this experiment, to have established a considerably higher standard of pleasure. The fresh air was delightful, and the forests, rocks, streams, and caves, were all objects of natural romance ; indeed, when to these are added the incidents furnished by the guides, who had to tell us of these rocky summits having been con-

verted into strong places of retreat and defence, with a detail of the names and histories of the various caves ;—of the Swedes, under Gustavus Adolphus, having overrun the country during the thirty years' war ; and, as a climax, the tragical and interesting event of a Saxon maiden having heroically thrown herself from one of the precipices, to avoid falling into the hands of the Swedish soldiery. It would be impossible while being thus indolently borne along, for any mind moderately imaginative, not to weave from these materials a series of little romances, vastly enhancing the interest of the surrounding scenes.

Many of the rocky mountains around us at present are of such fantastic shapes, and their summits so much resemble castles of human formation, that it really requires some effort of the reason to satisfy the mind that they are not actually so. Of the fortress of Königstein, in particular, there is a natural duplicate, which, at the distance of a few miles, it is not a little difficult to distinguish from the garrisoned stronghold. The Bastey promontory, which towers eight hundred feet in height above the Elbe, is usually resorted to as the most commanding position from which to view the beauties, and more striking wonders of this region ; and a discharge from its purchasable artillery exacts an echo from a thousand surrounding rocks. You will also readily believe that our enjoyment of

this prospect was not diminished by the appearance, in due season, of some dinner, under our heath-covered tent. Nor were we during our repast without abundance of society around our open dining saloon, the fine weather having drawn forth the lovers of a holiday from Dresden in considerable numbers.

By the bye, I do not know that we have anywhere felt our ignorance of the German language more provokingly than on this very crag, for not feeling myself entitled to any share in the compliment, I may remark disinterestedly, that strong and frequent challenges to conversation were addressed to our party as strangers, by female eyes so expressive, and lips so rosy, as might be supposed readily capable of performing any lesser miracle than that of inspiring us, on the moment, with a knowledge of German.

The Saxon Switzerland may be regarded as a beautiful counterpart of some of the most interesting scenery of Helvetia, leaving, however, her lakes as well as her more sublime and sterile wonders to be sought for in that land where the earth soars to heaven. After having, in two days, completed our survey of the more picturesque beauties of this district, and having condemned our carriage to undergo the roughness of the mountain road, we happily decided to embark on the Elbe, and, on that stream, floated luxuriously down to Pirna, in the tranquil twilight of an agreeable evening.

It proved to us a subject of considerable regret to be compelled so soon to leave Saxony and the Saxons; more especially as the Bohemians, into whose country we next entered, are a people in all respects inferior to them. Whether this inferiority may be the result of bad government, the catholic religion, or their Sclavonic origin, it would be difficult to decide; but probably all these causes combine to produce their comparatively unfavourable aspect.

Bohemia is a bigotedly Catholic country, and during our journey through it, innumerable symptoms of a bad religious taste were visible by the road-sides, while the people appeared both dirty in their habits, and uncouth in their manners. The language of the lower orders seems also peculiarly rude, and is not at all understood by Germans. Its sound is harsh; and in some of the small inns at which we halted for refreshment, the tone and manner of the domestics to each other were occasionally such as to convey to us the impression that they were quarrelling; thus forming an extreme contrast to the placid and amiable demeanour of the Saxons. In regard to the agriculture of the country, the soil seems merely to be scratched by the plough; notwithstanding which Bohemia abounds in corn. It is also peculiarly rich in its sheep flocks, which are indeed celebrated for the excellent quality of the wool they produce.

The battle-field of Culm, over which we drove,

is situated in an extensive plain distantly surrounded by hills, and by the road-side are two or three handsome monuments, erected to commemorate an important victory gained on this spot by the allies over the French, towards the conclusion of the last war, which attracted our attention.

We found Tœplitz to be an agreeable little watering-place, containing two thousand strangers when we passed through it; but, as the king of Prussia, who is its annual grand patron, had retired for the season, the walks and places of amusement were less thronged than they usually are. His Majesty, when here, is quite a paragon of affability, generally attending the public balls, and not unfrequently himself leading off the dance. The natural heat of some of the Tœplitz springs renders them agreeable for bathing purposes, while other branches supply a somewhat cooler liquid for those who more especially *thirst* for health, and one of them is stated to be a specific for certain diseases of the eye. The imperial gardens, which extend some way behind the palace, form an elegant shady promenade, and these walks can, it is alleged, sometimes show more of the high German aristocracy than any one of the other summer resorts.

At the congress held here last year, there were, I have been informed, sixty royal personages present, of which number about one-half were reigning dukes and sovereigns. This goodly gathering of princes

took place on the invitation of the Emperor of Austria, and they were all entertained by him in a manner befitting their high rank. As one among the many princely preparations, the landlord of our hotel mentioned that four hundred Arabian horses, with suitable equipages, were brought from the imperial stables of Vienna to grace the occasion. To persons who are fond of examining whether royalty is composed of the same physical materials as ordinary humanity, this great re-union of princes might have afforded an opportunity for observation, such as may not soon again present itself.

Between Tœplitz and Prague the country is open and unornamented, but apparently productive in grain, and particularly abounding in game. The ex-royal family of France would therefore on this account appear to have chosen their *locale* in Bohemia with more discrimination than it has been usual for them to exhibit; there being such a *variety* of game for the amusement of Charles X. and his son, that *toujours perdrix* is a complaint which they cannot here have any occasion to indulge in. The inhabitants of the country possess likewise a fund of bigotry sufficient to satisfy, in that respect, the taste of even the Duchess d'Angoulême.

Much has often been said by writers of the trouble given to travellers by custom-house officers on entering Austria; our experience on this point was, however, of a contrary description, our port-

manteaus not having been opened, and not a question having been asked. Whether this unexpected politeness was owing to the small coins which were carefully folded in the corners of our passports, like physicians' fees, before presenting them to the officer, or whether, it being about twelve o'clock, his dinner might have been waiting his leisure, I cannot divine; but it would certainly not be always prudent to calculate on the same extent of indulgence that we were fortunate enough to meet with.

Bohemia has a numerous nobility, many of whom are reported to be very wealthy. The Duke de Clary, in particular, through whose estates we have recently passed, is said to possess nearly a hundred different domains, yielding him of course a princely revenue.

Our next halting-place was Prague, which contains about 120,000 inhabitants; this ancient city is represented to have suffered much in times past from the ravages of plague as well as the disasters of war. It presents somewhat of an Italian appearance; and, as beheld from the hill on which the Royal Palace stands, reminded us considerably of the panorama of Rome, now exhibiting in Berlin. The palace on this hill, as well as the neighbouring church, dedicated to St. John Nepomuc, are now in preparation for the approaching coronation; but, as strangers, we were permitted to visit the latter, and to view the progress of its elegant silken and tapestry decorations. Among the per-

manent ornaments of this church, is a splendid group in honour of the above-mentioned patron saint of Bohemia, exceedingly well executed in silver, and weighing, according to the sacristan's authority, I am ashamed to repeat how much. That this valuable and convertible monument should have escaped the hands of the French soldiery, may perhaps be considered as a proof either of the sanctity or good fortune of the saint, as these military reformers of religion generally acted on the principle that wealth is an unseemly disease in the church, and it was one which they certainly seldom failed in their endeavours radically to cure.

All persons who may have travelled through the north of Italy, or the Rhine districts of Germany, cannot fail to have remarked the usual phraseology of the *valets-de-place* in showing their now humble church ornaments, viz., that these were all of gold and silver "*avant les Français*"—though paltry bits of coloured glass now do duty for precious stones, and indifferent gilding for the substantial gold of the olden time.

The picture gallery at Prague is only to be considered as a third-rate treat, and is indeed scarcely worthy of being visited, unless by those curious in specimens of the early German school of painting. A singular anecdote is here related of the origin of a crucifix and sacred group, which still stand on the principal bridge of this town. The Jew inhabitants,

who then were and still are numerous, were formerly subject to a toll on passing the bridge, and from this they petitioned to be relieved; the request was granted, on the condition of their erecting the Christian shrine which now occupies so conspicuous a position on the site of the former toll. In doing so, it seems probable that this calculating people, who have been worldly-wise in all their generations, merely balanced the expense of the toll on the one hand against that of the required erection on the other; while, by the Catholic party, it was doubtless considered a triumph of a much higher description, and as involving religious homage. Prague seems to be a dull city, with few amusements, or attractions; and though its university is considered the oldest of Germany, its celebrity does not appear by any means to have kept pace with its lengthened existence. Considering their nearness to the fair-haired sons of Saxony, the inhabitants of this place make an extraordinary advance towards an Italianised complexion; and, as such a material difference cannot arise from climate, it seems possible that the city may have been colonised from the south at some very remote period.

In honour of your department of the public service, I shall briefly translate the substance of an appropriate but pompous inscription which I observed yesterday over the entrance of the commissariat store-house here, and it may be given as follows:

“ Without the art of living, the art of war could not exist.”

It has indeed frequently been alleged that the Austrians excel more in the former than in the latter art, and during the late war, in particular, the French often sneered at, and profited by, the extent of their feeding preparations. Had Napoleon's soldiers required any other stimulus to victory than the watch-words of plunder and glory, such might have been readily furnished, to the appetites of a fatigued and ill-fed army, by an allusion to the tempting stores of the Austrian troops, for it was indispensable to beat the men in order to reach the provisions in their rear, which you as a commissariat officer must admit to have been a *rational* inducement to exertion.

The present Emperor of Austria has already been installed as King of Hungary, and is, in about ten days, to be crowned here as King of Bohemia ; while next summer, the iron crown of Lombardy, the most ancient in the world, is proposed to be placed on his head in Milan.

From Prague to Vienna measures about 200 English miles ; and the disagreeable jolting public conveyance by which we performed the journey, is certainly not of a description calculated to lessen the effect of that distance, on either the body or the mind of a traveller.

In journeying through the various districts of England, one is continually disposed to feel surprised

that the country should be able to supply the numerous towns which present themselves with the means of subsistence; but here an opposite feeling is experienced, and the wonder appears to be, how and where the produce of the country can find consumers; for between Prague and Vienna no towns appear of any considerable population, excepting Iglau and Znaim; yet, on either side, as far as the eye can reach, all the country is under cultivation, with the exception of some moderate portions, which are appropriated to the growth of wood.

Shrines, crucifixes, and, I may without intending irreverence, couple with them beggars, so abound by the road-sides in Bohemia and Moravia, that a traveller is compelled to conclude that some necessary connexion exists, here as elsewhere, between beggary and Popery: mendicancy appears, indeed, to be one of the fruits of that gigantic tree of *anti-knowledge*. It is therefore much to be hoped that another Luther may arise ere long for Austria, were it only with reference to the moral and civil effects that such a reform might produce on the people; for in Protestant Prussia and Saxony offensive beggars in rags and filth are nowhere to be met with.

The men of Bohemia and Moravia do not, it would appear, reckon females the weaker vessels, if one may be allowed to judge on this point from the nature of the labour which is sometimes allotted

to them—such as digging, ploughing, carrying heavy loads, and even breaking stones on the public road. Without any desire to appear insensible to the natural beauties of Germany, I may be allowed to remark, as a simple matter of fact, that all the extensive country through which we have recently travelled between Hamburg and Vienna is nearly destitute of that principal road-side ornament, hedges; and I verily believe that there are more of these to be found in one English county, than are spread over half the Continent. Both Bohemia and Moravia have, however, a prettily varied surface and aspect, as compared with North Germany generally; and pleasantly abound in hill and dale, enriched by wood and cultivated plains.

Having unfortunately lost the society of our German travelling companion at Prague, ignorance of the language immediately became a fruitful source of inconvenience to us; so that we began to regret not having followed the advice given by a ship-owner in the north of Scotland to his captain, before sailing for Norway—to “devote the *whole* of the first day to making himself perfect in the language of the country.”

VIENNA, SEPT. 1836.

A silence of some years on my part proves how much less grateful we are apt to be for the preservation of life through medical, than through other means; for, had you chanced to pluck me out of a river, instead of subduing the rage of a fever, good feeling would doubtless have prompted to a more frequent acknowledgment of such an obligation.

To write a letter from Vienna, however, one of the gayest and most engrossing cities of Europe, and in fact the Paris of Germany, may, I trust, be considered a partial expiation of past negligence, though it is a matter of easy execution, as the materials for remark are inexhaustible, and present rather an *embarras des richesses*. Your stout friend C——, with whom I at present travel, is, I am happy to say, much pleased with the German feeding, as well as with the good humour and kindly manners of the people. He has furthermore a highly favourable opinion of hock and Seltzer water, with which we are generally compelled to cool ourselves twice a-day in this hot city; and I must be permitted to remark, without intending to convey disrespect, that we both much prefer this mixture to those saline draughts with which you used to favour us, during paroxysms of tropical fever.

C——'s round, rosy, good-humoured face, has

already excited much admiration among the maid-servants at some of the various hotels in which we have sojourned ; and when I inform you that it is the general Austrian practice to have these establishments ornamented by the beauty of some of the nicest girls which the neighbourhood affords, you will possess some data from which to appreciate the value of our friend's conquests.

Our journey to this place having been performed on the eve of the Emperor's coronation, we encountered much travelling bustle along the road from Prague, having met considerable bodies of troops, numerous equipages belonging to the court and nobility, as well as an abundance of heavy commerce-laden waggons. With respect to the latter, it is proper to observe, that, as no important canals are to be found in Austria, the numbers of loaded vehicles of this description which traverse the roads, are calculated to convey a somewhat exaggerated idea of its commercial intercourse.

I cannot avoid feeling, and expressing, that I owe much obligation to his Highness Prince Lichtenstein's picture-gallery, to which we resorted to spend our first day in Vienna. After having been jolted and jaded by three days' travelling over dusty roads, during hot weather, and in a vehicle the springs of which were assuredly not patent from Longacre, it was no slight relief to find ourselves at ease in such a temple of taste. All persons who are nervously

irritable may reasonably calculate on a day of misery after such a long continued series of rough-road concussions: but Prince Lichtenstein's beautiful Correggios, Guidos, Murillos, Andrea del Sartos, Franceschinis, and Van der Werfs, fixed our attention; and the wearied spirit was speedily charmed into tranquillity by the lovely canvas divinities which surrounded us. To you with a soul attuned to harmony, music will naturally appear a more powerful tranquillizer; but for one to whom it is little else than an agreeable medium for musing, to profess rapture on that subject would be an uncandid affectation. It is, therefore, better frankly to confess with Mr. Jenkins the Cockney—"I am not musical myself, but have a snuff-box that is."—The only consolation which I have hitherto been able to discover for this deprivation of musical enjoyment is founded on a note by Mr. Moore to one of his Oriental poems, quoting a Persian doctrine, that the pleasure of music arises from its reminding them of melody with which they had been familiar in previous states of being. Those, therefore, who do not feel this link connecting them with other existences, may not unreasonably infer that they are only in the chrysalis state, and may yet hope to wing their flight in more musical forms, and in good time possibly sing—"I'd be a butterfly."* Strauss is

* The soothing influence of music is no doubt destined, in the

the Paganini of this quarter, and it is to his waltzes that the belles of Vienna love to be twirled round the dancing saloons with which all the public gardens are furnished. His name is celebrated throughout Germany, and those who are qualified to appreciate harmony universally admit that his violin can "discourse most eloquent music." He is free from any peculiarity of appearance, and, from considerable action of the limbs, &c., his performance seems, I must confess, somewhat laboured; but, perhaps, this is inseparable from the animated nature of the waltz. It is, however, an extreme contrast to the ease with which Paganini draws out his silvery tones, unlike all that the skill of the world had previously achieved, and affording a pleasing foretaste of what a musical enthusiast may hope for in a state of more refined existence. Strauss is also a composer of no inconsiderable merit, and his waltzes never fail to elicit rapturous applause from a Vienna audience. The intoxication of champagne is no doubt moderately agreeable, though the delusions of opium are to be con-

fulness of time, to become an agent of no small power in your profession, by calming the irritated spirit of invalids, and carrying the train of thought away from the pangs of disease.

Notwithstanding the reasonableness, however, of such an idea, a philosophical physician, whom I might name, practising in one of the north-western counties of England, found some years since, that his proposal to hasten the convalescence of hospital invalids by the introduction of music into certain of its wards, was received with only impatient derision.

sidered more dreamy and exquisitely delicate ; but it seems to have been reserved for the Germans to enjoy, in its highest perfection, the still more fascinating intoxication of waltzing. It is quite a passion among them ; insomuch that if the question—What is the principal object of female existence in Germany?—were asked and fairly answered, I doubt not that “waltzing” would be the reply. In Berlin, as well as here, the better classes of society not unfrequently resort to the public dancing saloons as spectators of the waltzing performances of their domestics, who love to get twirled into excitement by the youthful milliners and tradesmen of the city.

When in Edinburgh, some years since, one of the Siamese twins was asked if people ever danced in his hot country ; he replied, with *naïveté*—“Yes, poor people dance ; but the rich have other people to dance for them.” If such were the rule here, the dance-loving bourgeois of Vienna would, I verily believe, almost cease to desire wealth, for which they are otherwise stated to have a sufficient regard. I am sure it will not fail to delight the musical department of your mind, to understand that in Austria, nearly all families occupying a position above that of absolute poverty, are in possession of a piano. Such an instrument is indeed the Savings Bank into which they place the first accumulated hundred florins ; and I need

scarcely add that the interest is very abundantly paid them in notes.

The city proper of Vienna is so small that in point of extent it is exceeded by the capital of many a German duchy. It is surrounded by an esplanade, which extends to the breadth of nearly half a mile ; and beyond this are situated the faubourgs, containing about four times as many inhabitants as the city itself. The injurious effect of such an extensive esplanade is to throw these faubourgs to an inconvenient distance from the city, as well as from each other ; and a number of fine streets may, probably, at a future period, be created on this vacant space, with much advantage to the appearance as well as to the concentration of the capital. The streets within the city of Vienna are chiefly narrow, and without foot pavements, but are notwithstanding kept in the best possible order. The houses, having an external surface of plaster and paint, present a handsome appearance ; and it is the usual practice here, as well as in North Germany, for different families to occupy the respective stories of a house ; indeed so much is this the case that one floor is very generally divided into several domiciles.

The population of Vienna is estimated at above 400,000 ; and, as this fair city is the chief residence of the noblesse of Austria, Hungary, Bohemia, and Moravia, as well as of many of its more recently acquired high-born subjects from the Italian states,

it possesses a very numerous aristocracy, and exhibits much appearance of wealth. Many of the Italian nobles who at present reside here, are stated to have been detained for protracted periods, occupied in vainly soliciting pardon for relatives and friends found guilty of political offences in Lombardy; by which finesse, said my radical Milanese informant, Vienna is kept gay, and "*toujours en fleur*."

Austria, including its Italian provinces, contains probably a more numerous nobility than any other empire; and, in point of wealth, they are to be considered as scarcely inferior to those of England; for the Lichtensteins, Schwartzenegrs, Esterhazys, and many others, may successfully vie with the nobility of any country, as respects either their riches or their family honours.

The prince-like reply of the Hungarian magnate, Esterhazy, to an English nobleman, whose limited flock of Southdowns he had been surveying, is probably fresh in your recollection—"I do not know the number of my sheep, but believe I have about a thousand shepherds." Prince Esterhazy's flocks are reported collectively to exceed 200,000 in number, yielding him an annual income of about 50,000*l.* while his total revenue is estimated at above 200,000*l.* Notwithstanding, however, this princely amount, the extravagances of London life are reported to have prevented its being found

superabundant. It has been alleged, indeed, that the Austrian court does not delight in beholding individual nobles possessed of excessive wealth; and a London mission is therefore a convenient and honourable means to cure a plethora of riches. Prince Esterhazy is, in Hungary, treated as a little potentate, and is even stated to maintain there some military state. It appears that Napoleon, during the period of his supreme power, desired to have formed Hungary into an independent kingdom under an Esterhazy dynasty, as a check upon Austria; but the endeavour proved unsuccessful, as neither his influence nor his address could shake the attached loyalty of that family to the Emperor; and thus his scheme for giving to the country a native sovereign was necessarily abandoned.

Austria and Prussia may not improperly be viewed as extreme contrasts to each other, in regard to the division of landed property, and the moral effects resulting from that division. The Austrian monopolizing proprietary system necessarily produces a gay capital; but the Prussian subdivision of land a more happy and independent people. In this empire much the larger proportion of the soil is the property of the nobles; so that the rural population, though apparently contented, is, in general, poor and dependent. In the kingdom of Hungary this state of things is understood more especially to exist, and the peasants there are held in a low state of

vassalage, though the upper classes profess to be great admirers of theoretical liberty, and are indeed anxious to procure political privileges similar to our own.

Vienna is abundantly 'rich in works of art, and more especially in favourable specimens of Canova's genius. Among these, the most generally admired is a magnificent monument to the memory of the Archduchess Christina, which forms the principal attraction of the Augustine Church. The group consists of several female figures, each of which possesses a style of interest peculiarly its own. Indeed the grace and expression of these figures, which vary in size from almost infancy up to beautiful womanhood, and form a line of mourners in procession towards the entrance of the tomb, seems scarcely susceptible of being surpassed by any similar labour of the chisel. The contrast afforded to the youthful symmetry, and graceful drapery of these mourning orphans of charity, by the bent, aged, and muscular form of the male figure, which terminates the group, enhances very much the effect of the general design.

The temple in the *Volks-garten* contains another of Canova's celebrated works, representing Theseus, in the act of slaying the Minotaur. In this group the dint produced by the pressure of the victor's knee on the breast of the fabled monster, as well as his grasp of the throat, are so strikingly repre-

sented, that, while gazing on it, it would not be difficult for one to imagine he heard the crash of bones, or even the gurgle of suppressed respiration.

Prince Esterhazy's sculpture gallery is also enriched by several of Canova's productions, among which are excellent busts of Napoleon and Maria Louisa; besides these, you also find in his collection many works by Thorwaldsen, Bartolini, and other eminent moderns. Prince Esterhazy's picture-gallery is not so extensive as Prince Lichtenstein's; but it is very select, and contains many brilliant gems of art. Among these, are some excellent cattle-pieces by Paul Potter; two beautiful pictures by Leonardo da Vinci; two of the best Salvator Rosas that are to be met with; and some unsurpassable Rembrandts.

The Belvidere public gallery is of great extent, and esteemed in Germany second only to that of Dresden. Indeed I feel that many of the works which it contains have awakened such feelings of admiration, that I hope to enjoy a recollection of their beauties as long as memory shall endure, or association have the power to recal past impressions. A Holy Family, by Raphael, is considered one of the chief attractions of the collection, and is, perhaps, second to nothing but his own still greater productions at Florence and at Dresden; while, in sanctity of expression, it seems almost equal to those *chefs-d'œuvre* which shed so celestial a light over

these galleries. An exquisite picture, by Leonardo da Vinci, representing his favourite subject—Herodias carrying the head of St. John—is certainly one of the most striking here; the lustre of the eye, and the brunette of the complexion, are matchless; and when viewed for some time through a tube, the figure seems to advance into a living reality. Several pictures, by Carlo Dolci, are also to be seen, full of that tender expression composed half of melancholy, and half of sanctity, which no other master has portrayed with equal excellence, while there is an almost enamel delicacy in his colouring, that proclaims its origin, and is indeed nowhere else to be found. The mantles of his Magdalens and Madonnas have assuredly been dipped in the Tyrian dye. Neither must I omit to mention two beautiful Madonnas, by Mengs and Perrugino, as well as one by Pistoja, embodying more of the expression of intellect and dignity than is generally met with; while the heavenly countenance of an angel, by Leux, is such as, once seen, cannot readily be forgotten. Many of the finer landscapes in this gallery present also splendid epitomes of nature's beauties, and irresistibly lead the soul forth into the forest; one of those by Ruysdael, in particular, exhibits, in an eminent degree, that leafy shadiness which is so characteristic of his pictures; while near to it there is a beautiful sea-view, by Backhuysen; and the juxta-position of such

imitations of shade and water may be conceived sufficient to aid the fancy in creating an ideal coolness, amid even the summer heat of Vienna.

Nearly every gallery which one enters on the Continent affords evidence either of the extraordinary power and industry of Rubens, or of the entire success of his imitators ; for even here, and at Dresden, there are alone, productions of his which might well be considered sufficient to have occupied the entire life of any ordinary artist. His works seldom, however, afford to the beholder very refined pleasure, as they too generally convey what Mr. Combe would call in phrenological language the supremacy of the lower feelings, and even his female figures are merely splendid unsentimental specimens of the sex—the soulless copies of nature's coarse Flemish models.

The Belvidere exhibits a portrait, which it is impossible to avoid noticing, of an old woman, by Denner, possessing the singular merit, if such it may be called, of being quite unlike a picture—for its minuteness of finish is such as to cause it rather to resemble a preserved head, where each individual wrinkle, freckle, and silver hair, is as distinctly visible as it could have been in the living original ! In the same room which contains this picture, you may also find a singular and beautifully finished one, by Mieris, of a man's face, under the influence of a broad leer ; and the expression is so full of mirthfulness, that while beholding it,

the relaxed muscles of my melancholy visage became magnetized by its mirth, and changed to a more joyous expression. Some beautiful Titians, and many excellent Vandycks, Ostades, &c. in almost endless succession, lend a further interest to this collection.

The names of the masters, along with the dates of their birth and death, are very appropriately marked on each picture. It would hence appear, that Titian attained the great age of ninety-nine years, and Rubens that of sixty-four; while the divine Raphael was snatched away at the early age of thirty-seven.

We experienced no difficulty in also obtaining admission to the galleries of several of the principal nobility; but neither in them, nor in the Belvidere itself, did we see any young artists at work. How different is this from the enthusiasm visible among the numerous students at Dresden! Though not distinguished as a school of painting, yet the wealth of Vienna commands the residence of some eminent artists; and the style of portrait-painting in particular appears in this city to be very superior to what it is in the other districts of Germany. The Archduke Charles's extensive and rare collection of prints is likewise freely open to the inspection of all applicants; and it occasionally proved to me a very agreeable morning's recreation to turn over a few out of the countless thousands which it contains.

Many of the churches of Vienna are handsome—particularly the cathedral St. Carlo, &c., &c.; and on Sundays they are all crowded with devotees from early morning till the grand high mass, which takes place towards noon. The finest sacred music which the city can command fills up the intervals of these ceremonies, beautifully assisting to inspire devotion, and rendering its exercise even doubly pleasurable. This union of music with splendid religious observances is doubtless the most exalted combination which the mind is capable of experiencing; and, aided, as it is, by the splendour of dress, striking ceremonials, painting, and sculpture, as well as the fragrance of incense, and tinkling of bells, can scarcely fail to captivate all those whose devotional feelings have been trained to be acted on through the external senses. To define the catholic service as a gorgeous poetry, while the protestant is plain reasonable prose, would perhaps sufficiently well illustrate the difference between the splendour of the church ceremonies at Vienna, and the unobtrusive plainness which, in this matter, prevails in protestant North Germany. Whether it may be in consequence or in despite of its high Catholicism, I shall not presume to judge; but certainly Vienna does not, among the Germans, enjoy a first-class reputation in regard to morals; and its people, no doubt, differ considerably in this respect from the rigid Lutherans of the north.

Without subscribing to the exaggerated opinions which prevail on this subject, it may reasonably enough be presumed that there is some little foundation for the stigma. The mask of modesty may, however, be so frequently assumed by persons devoid of the true character, and worn by them with such a specious address, that, when the veil in those instances drops, the uncharitable are too ready to conclude that Vienna is chiefly a city of masks. There are many thousands of faces to be seen here every day, with the expression of modesty and propriety so thoroughly engraved on beauty of the highest order, that no person who loves to indulge in the pleasure of judging by expression, and according to the dictates of good feeling, can assent to the malicious opinions entertained on this subject. It is neither amiable nor wise hastily to conclude that because there may be some counterfeits in circulation there is therefore no true coin.

The climate of Vienna is reputed to be liable to great and sudden changes, which, assisted by the enormous quantity of fine dust which gathers on the roads of the suburbs, produces a tendency to diseases of the lungs, as well as of the eyes. During the greater part of our sojourn here the heat has been excessive, and nothing proves more irritating to a weak nervous system than the intense rays of the sun.

The Emperor's town palace, and that of the

Archduke Charles adjoin each other, and form a more extensive than elegant range of buildings, overlooking the glacis. The Imperial Palace and gardens at Schönbrunn are, however, really handsome, and possess considerable architectural beauty; while the view of Vienna from the Gloriette temple in these gardens, is calculated to remind a visitor, in some degree, of Florence. The hills in the neighbourhood, which bound the view towards Baden, exhibit likewise something of the character of the Tuscan Apennines. Napoleon occupied the palace of Schönbrunn for some time in 1809, when the Emperor of Austria very *politely* retired into Hungary.

We, of course, spent a day in Baden, the fashionable watering-place of Vienna, and found it an agreeable little town; the palace of the Archduke Charles, in its immediate neighbourhood, is quite a rural Elysium, beautiful in itself, and peculiarly happy in its situation at the entrance of a romantic valley. It is, perhaps, seldom that an humble individual is impelled to break the tenth commandment by coveting the splendour of a palace, but I have certainly seen none more likely to give rise to such a feeling than this residence of the Archduke.

It is a misfortune which can scarcely be too much regretted that the noble Danube does not flow through the centre of Vienna, instead of being at

the distance of a mile or more on one side of it ; yet is this great river, nevertheless, daily becoming by means of steam-vessels more important to the capital, as a channel whereby the manufactures of Upper Austria may pass into Turkey and the East—which they indeed already do to a considerable extent. In the present state of the world and its commercial relations, it is certainly quite a desideratum to discover a people who are either too indolent or too ignorant to manufacture for themselves. Now, the Turks happen to be precisely of this description, and though the nations of Western Europe may compete for their commercial favours, yet Austria, by means of the Danube, has great natural advantages for establishing such a connexion with them. It would hence appear that, commercially, no less than politically, it is the especial duty as much as the interest of Austria to preserve the independence of Turkey. With France and England therefore equally solicitous for the same object, it may be hoped that the cravings of Russian ambition are not likely to be speedily gratified. There are stated to be at present seven steam-vessels navigating the Danube from Vienna to Constantinople, and the number of these packets is considered likely to increase rapidly. The voyage downwards generally occupies from ten to fourteen days, and the beauty of the banks of the river in some parts is highly spoken of. A scheme is at

present under discussion here for forming a canal from a certain bend of the Danube into the Black Sea, which would both save a considerable distance, and avoid the Russian establishments which are placed at the mouth of the river ; such a canal, therefore, would seem to be an object of importance, not alone to Austria, but to the commerce of Europe generally ; though the traffic of the district does not at present appear to be of sufficient magnitude to render it a promising investment for private capital.

The Danube is, perhaps, one of those few sublu-
nary objects which may, while tracing its course,
almost excuse an humble attempt at rhyme, and
an actual perpetration of treason against the stricter
laws of the Nine.

Born in the distant forest dell,
Of Donau Schingen's limpid well ;
Fed in thy infancy by rills
Meandering from the Baden hills ;
And hastening on, with youthful pride,
Through Wirtemberg thy watery tide —
A hundred brooks their tribute bring,
And hail thee as the river king.
Flow on, brave Danube ! flow for ever,
In rapid stream, thou noble river !

Bavaria's breadth thy course extends,
By Ulm's high tower, till Newberg lends
Its beauties to thy mirror stream,
In soft reflection, like a dream ;
And commerce brings its watery* band
To join thee to the Rhenish strand—

* Danube and Mayne Canal.

And link, like brothers Siamese,
The arteries of distant seas.
Flow on, brave Danube ! flow for ever,
In rapid stream, thou noble river !

Now swelled into imperial strength,
Fair Austria welcomes thee at length ;
And many a town and peaceful vale
Is gladdened by the passing sail,
Which floats along thy eddying tide
As with the stream the vessels glide,
Bearing their rich and varied loads
To gay Vienna's fair abodes.
Flow on, brave Danube ! flow for ever,
In ample stream, thou noble river !

We were unfortunate in our visit to Vienna in one respect at least, namely, our not having been able to see either the Emperor or his primeminister, as they and all the gay world of the court were engaged in the performance of the coronation ceremonies at Prague. His Majesty is understood to possess a mild and amiable disposition, similar to that of his father, but unfortunately united with much less talent and energy of character, the consequence, probably, in some measure, of delicate health. An intelligent Protestant gentleman, resident in Vienna, whose acquaintance I had the pleasure to make, endeavoured to account for the declining energy and talent of the Imperial race in a peculiar manner, viz. by their repeated intermarriages with their cousins of the Sardinian, and Neapolitan royal families. That such near alliances do produce these unfavour-

able results seems to be pretty generally admitted in all countries; and Dr. Spurzheim, of whose doctrines this was one, has no doubt favoured his townsmen, the good people of Vienna, with his views on the subject. The Austrian royal family are so bigotedly Catholic, that for any one of its members to marry a Protestant, might possibly be considered to place him beyond the region of forgiveness; while state policy has, it is alleged, required that the family should not connect itself with ever-changing France. They have thus, therefore, been somewhat limited in their freedom of choice, for as to the Catholic royalty of Germany, it is, perhaps, scarcely considered sufficiently *distingué* for the honour of an imperial alliance. The Hapsburg race of sovereigns have, for generations past, with scarcely an exception, possessed mild and benevolent dispositions; but the name of the Empress Maria Theresa is considered the brightest of the long and honourable line, and is that which is most frequently mentioned. She may, perhaps, without impropriety be reckoned the Queen Elizabeth of Austrian history; with this important difference, however, that she did not forget the woman in the Empress, nor forfeit the regard due to the delicacy and amiabilities of female character. Many permanent proofs of a philanthropic disposition are still to be found in the excellent public institutions of her foundation in Vienna, which indeed are very nu-

merous. The present Emperor has been some years married, but there seems little expectation of his having any immediate descendants; his uncle, the Archduke Charles, has, however, several children, who, if their portraits, as seen in the palace, truly represent them, promise to do honour to their lineage and country. The Emperor of Austria possesses, as subordinate dignities, eight or ten royal titles, and is accordingly, in formal documents, described as king of Bohemia, Moravia, Hungary, Lombardy, &c.; while even the distant and holy city of Jerusalem yields him a similar though nominal homage.

The imperial family seem to be much beloved in their old hereditary dominions; but this feeling does not appear to extend to the more recently conquered provinces which form the extremities of the empire. It might be difficult to conjecture how long clever policy and temporizing measures may be able to maintain the political affairs of this country in their present position; yet it is scarcely rash to conclude, that, before many years pass by, the empire of Austria must either be united by a general constitutional system, or that each of the numerous states which swell it to its present greatness must have local constitutions for their internal government, Vienna continuing to be merely the centre for regulating matters of general interest. No central government, however intelligent, can,

without a representative system, either sympathise with the feelings or understand the varied interests of such an extensive empire. Laws and policy, for example, which are perfectly suitable for Austria, Bohemia, and Moravia, may be quite unfit for Lombardy, the Tyrol, and Hungary, which are the more democratic districts. It is, therefore, much to be hoped that the present amiable Emperor, who is certainly neither ambitious to possess nor capable to wield great personal power, may be induced, during his reign, to concede a constitution—retaining the splendour and sufficient of the power of royalty, freed from the excessive anxiety attending individual government and responsibility.

Prince Metternich is allowed, even by his greatest political enemies in Vienna, to possess singular talent; and has, if there is any faith to be placed in a portrait, a fine animated expression of countenance, indicative of his most distinguished characteristics—to wit, an extreme rapidity of perception and decision—a perception which, it is stated, omits nothing, and a decision that seldom materially errs. The Parisians, who at present so loudly complain that Louis Philippe both reigns and governs, could scarcely fail to be satisfied with the state of matters here in respect to the division of political power; for that Prince Metternich governs is as certain, as that the good-natured Emperor simply reigns. You may probably recol-

lect the lines in Blackwood's Magazine, which so well described a similar state of things during the political reign, in our country, of the hero of 'Waterloo :—

“ King Arthur reigns in England,
In Ireland reigns King Dan,
King George in Windsor Castle—
Dethrone them if you can.”

Austria may be now said to manufacture nearly all that her vast population consumes ; and to judge from the appearance of dresses, shops, carriages, furniture, &c., she appears, as regards mechanical ingenuity, to stand but little in need of foreign assistance. The principal sources of imperial revenue are, I believe, the mines, the land-tax, stamp-tax, lottery, customs' duties, and the government monopolies of tobacco, salt, gunpowder, and paper. The taxes do not appear to be considered oppressive ; but how much precisely is raised, or in what manner it is expended, the gay world of Vienna cares little to know, and much inquiry on the subject by strangers might be considered an impertinence. The mind of Mr. Hume, if translated here, would probably die of a lethargy, from the lack of arithmetical food, and the want of annual budgets to dissect.

The population of the Austrian empire is computed at about thirty-five millions ; and the army is stated to amount to above 300,000 men, who generally serve for about seven years each. In the

Venetian and Lombardy states, the soldiers are drawn by conscription as in France ; but in Austria some degree of management is exercised in order to secure tall men for the public service, thus affording to diminutiveness an important premium, that of a peaceful civil life.

The officers of the cavalry regiments here, as elsewhere, are chiefly composed of the younger members of noble families, while those of the infantry belong to the middle classes of society. It is not a little singular that many British gentlemen, as well as numbers of Swiss, Prussians, and Germans, from the minor states, at present hold commissions in the military service of the Emperor.

This is certainly a strange description of liberalism in a government, so usually illiberal ; and it is one which, in the event of war, could scarcely fail to lead to disagreeable consequences. It seems to be a practice not very unusual in the Austrian army, to raise private soldiers to the rank of officers in reward of such acts of valour as they may perform, or even of continued good conduct. The Austria-Hungarian cavalry enjoys, in this quarter of Europe, a high reputation for efficiency ; and as that country is stated to have been colonised from the East at a remote period, it is probable that some Arab or Tartar blood circulates in the veins of its people : thus infusing that taste for horsemanship by which they are distinguished above their neighbours of Germany.

All the military uniforms of Austria appear to be in bad taste ; which is the more to be regretted, as the troops are generally as fine a body of men as are anywhere to be met with. Dress is, I humbly conceive, of much more consequence than it is generally imagined to be either in military or in civil life ; for where a man is nicely apparelled, an endeavour will generally be made that his carriage and conduct shall correspond, so far as may be, with his outward appearance. The ingenuity of the military dandies of Vienna might therefore be advantageously employed in devising a new national livery ; for certainly nothing can be conceived less becoming than the white coats and long black gaiters at present worn by the soldiery.

Two days since, being a high saints' day, a grand review of 12 or 15,000 troops took place in the suburbs, on which occasion high mass, as usual, was performed on the field with all due ceremony, for the religious benefit of the soldiery. The early part of the day was also kept strictly holy in the city, and religious processions and high masses gave animation respectively to its streets and churches. The Catholic religion, and the influence of its priesthood, firmly attached to the ruling family and existing order of things, may, I conceive, be viewed as the chief bulwarks of the Austrian system of government ; the imperial family itself being identified with all the peculiar tenets of high Catho-

licism, while the sages of the government support the priestly system as a great political safeguard.

The mass of the Austrian people, though generally educated in a moderate degree, are considered to fall greatly below the standard of the Prussians and other North Germans in this important respect. Catholic teachers are certainly paid by the government throughout the empire, and the established regulations require parents to send their children to school; but as a teacher frequently suffices for more than one village, the attendance of pupils cannot in consequence be supposed to be so regular as it is in Prussia. In regard to the ecclesiastical revenues of Austria, the inequality of their division appears to be even greater than with us, and the inferior Catholic priesthood are paid their very small stipends from ceremonial fees and other trifling sources. The magnates of the Austrian church are, however, stated to be as princely in revenues as they are frequently aristocratic by birth, and derive enormous incomes from landed estates which are attached to their respective sees.

The university of Vienna enjoys a respectable reputation for medical science, but in matters of speculative philosophy it is acknowledged to be far behind those of Northern Germany. The gallery of anatomical wax-work in this city very powerfully illustrates that branch of science, and may be said to rival, if that were possible, the waxy wonders of

even Florence itself. On visiting Vienna, you must by no means omit an examination of the Zaugg House, as it contains unquestionably one of the most extensive and curiously-arranged collections of ancient and modern implements of war that I can remember to have seen. The vaults of the Capuchin convent are also generally resorted to by strangers, as being the repositories of the remains of a long and illustrious line of Austrian monarchs, from her ancient dukes of a limited territory, down to the emperors of later and more powerful times. To behold such numerous generations of departed royalty thus confined within the narrow limits of their bronze coffins, and to a certain extent chronologically arranged, may both afford a useful lesson of humility, as well as recal to minds, sufficiently familiar with a knowledge of Austrian affairs, an impressive history of the country as reflected in the regal succession.

You will not, I trust, imagine it to be unfeeling levity that causes me to incur the odium of making a sudden digression from so serious a subject as these tombs, which might even justify a few pages of moralizing, to objects insignificant and altogether different. The true explanation of the circumstance I believe to be, that having visited on the same day these vaults and the Imperial Porcelain Gallery, I find the one, however discordantly, following the other in the pages of my diary, and indolence

grudges the trouble that might be involved by changing its place. There are few objects which appear to me more attractive than the finest descriptions of such china as is here met with, and the warehouse in which the imperial government condescends to the sale of tea-cups, is really an agreeable lounge. It contains, however, not alone such articles of utility, but also exquisite copies in porcelain of some of the finest pictures in the Belvidere gallery, as well as of the best portraits of the various members of the royal family. Not to admire the beauty of these porcelain pictures would be impossible; but their expensiveness and their fragility alike interdict a traveller from attempting to make purchases of them. The various processes by which those beautiful articles are prepared we also minutely inspected; the manufactory is situated outside of the city, and appears to be quite on a par with that at Berlin, and at least equal in its productions to that of Dresden, where the art first attained moderate perfection in Europe.

In the management of their theatres, the Germans appear to me to pursue a more rational course, and to keep moderate recreation better in view than is usually the case in England. In the first place, their performances seldom last for more than two or three hours,—the longest period, perhaps, for which it is possible to concentrate the attention, without converting an intended pleasure

into a positive labour. In the next place, instead of their theatres presenting a glare of gas-light, distressing to the eyes, heating the air, and consuming that portion required for respiration, a single chandelier is alone suspended from the ceiling. On first entering a German theatre, therefore, it certainly makes a less dazzling impression than an English one does, and might not perhaps please those visitors who desire to be seen as by the blaze of noon-day; but for dramatic effect, the business proper of the theatre, the German plan is certainly the better of the two, and the ventilation of the houses seems also to be very carefully attended to.

We have recently heard much of the cholera both here and at Prague, and no doubt numbers have died at both places from imprudent mixtures of fruit, and vegetables, with sour beer, and sourer wine; but, happening to know something of dietetics, and having with your good assistance escaped from the tropical land of pestilence, we came forward without fear. I have indeed jocosely alleged that the appearance of C——'s ruddy English face, beaming with health, hock, and happiness, has in some degree tended to restore confidence in Vienna, and thus arrested the progress of the disorder. The charm of a healthy visage has, however, already lost its power; for yesterday, on the weather suddenly changing from heat to cold, ninety-eight persons were reported to have been carried to the

hospital within six hours. An Archbishop has also fallen a victim to this malady at Prague, and his death appears to have affected the public mind more strongly, and to have impressed it more deeply with the virulence of the disorder, than the death of a thousand plebeians could have done. I hope your medical opinion on this subject may coincide with my unmedical belief, that beefsteaks and pure air are the best preventives of such a disease.

Smoking appears to be much less generally indulged in at Vienna than in North Germany ; there is indeed an air of elegance and refinement about most of the gentlemen with which the habits and vile odour of a confirmed smoker would be incompatible. The large meerschaum pipes are, nevertheless, still in fashion as gentlemanly toys ; and it may be reckoned as one of the smoker's principal amusements, to observe the gradual change in their colour which his daily labours tend to produce.

There is perhaps no city in Germany of which the people dress so generally well as in Vienna, including both sexes and all classes. The ladies in particular, as seen tripping along the promenades in their light muslin dresses, present an appearance quite fairy-like ; and any father confessor, on meeting these pretty pietists as they are taking their interesting morning walk to

church, to seek for absolution, must surely feel disposed to anticipate their wishes, by extending an unsolicited pardon for any imagined faults, which their fastidiousness may consider as sinful.

It was with singular pleasure and surprise that a few days after our arrival here, we accidentally met with another of your patients, also saved from tropical fever, and now translated from an African pandemonium to the Austrian paradise. Major F—— has certainly proved himself a man of taste as well as an old soldier, in thus selecting one of the most agreeable cities of Europe in which to recruit his health, and enjoy a regimental furlough.

Vienna has the reputation in Germany of being a cheap city, and perhaps the necessaries of life may be reasonable in price to the inhabitants; but with strangers who live in hotels it is of course otherwise; and you might, I believe, live as economically and as well in a good hotel in London, as in either Hamburgh, Berlin, Dresden, or Vienna. The cookery here may be described as moderately good; yet, as compared with the French, it wants lightness and delicacy—that happy combination of science with almost sublime taste in which the Parisian *cuisine* so abounds as to entitle its *artistes* to rank with the professors of the liberal arts, and to be considered among the minor benefactors of mankind. In Vienna as in Paris it is a very

general practice to dine at *restaurants*, and, in consequence, there are no such resources as *tables-d'hôte*; but the pleasures of the palate are by no means neglected, and the Viennese are well known to be peculiarly happy in their powers of performance at table. About the middle of dinner it is quite usual here to indulge in a dish of substantial sweet pudding, and after having accomplished that you would be surprised to remark the unsubdued relish with which a true Austrian will direct his attention to roast mutton, poultry, or game. At Hetsing, a few miles out of town, there is a particularly elegant dining establishment, to which the luxurious of Vienna resort, more especially on Sundays. After having been appetized for its good things by a walk through the beautiful grounds at Schönbrunn, the *valet-de-place* who accompanied us, after seeing us established at one of the public tables of the *restaurant*, conceived that we no longer wanted an interpreter, and went his way. Dish followed dish in succession, with increasing savour of temptation, till the total number amounted to twelve or thirteen; for we had not a sufficient knowledge of the German language, even had we possessed sufficient self-command, to attempt to check this inundation of luxuries. The general dinner hour of Austria being barbarously early, suppers are of course in fashion; and the substantial fare, in which even ladies indulge at this evening

meal, tends somehow to convey the displeasing impression, that neither their dreams can be "rosy," nor their "slumbers light."

It has been stated to me recently by persons perfectly competent to judge, that while in North Germany conversation very generally assumes an intellectual tone, turning on politics, literature, philosophy, or the arts—in Vienna the practice in this respect is quite different: the subjects chosen are trivial; and theatres, operas, parties, and promenades, form the staple of discourse. If the Viennese are to be considered as the worshippers of any system of philosophy, it is decidedly of that which is attributed to Epicurus.

In consequence of this devotion to enjoyment, the more reflecting people of some other districts of Germany are presumptuous enough, from that cause chiefly, to accuse the good-humoured Austrians of stupidity, and this charge they in their turn retort upon their Hungarian neighbours.

"No person owns it in the last degree,"

Each thinks his neighbour farther gone than he."

The humourists of Germany love to relate a somewhat amusing illustration of this alleged obtuseness of mind; and as it contains some point, I shall venture to transcribe it, without, however, by any means subscribing to its correctness. It appears that two jolly Viennese, after having indulged in the wine-cup till the sun appeared above the hori-

on, while staggering home fell into a dispute as to whether it really was Phœbus or Luna which enlightened their path. The difference of opinion having run high, it was mutually agreed to refer the planetary question to the first person who might pass by. He chanced to be, according to the anecdote, an Hungarian, who, after deliberately listening to the advocate for each luminary, sagely replied, " I am very sorry, gentlemen, that, being a stranger in Vienna, I cannot decide the question."

At a period of time not very remote, English travellers visiting Vienna, are reported to have frequently found themselves followed in their walks by a familiar spirit belonging to the bureau of police ; this, however, is a mark of attention which seems now confined to the Lombardese and other strangers liable to be suspected of political intrigue. Some years since, when the employment of personal spies more generally prevailed in Vienna, an English gentleman is stated to have had the address to make his guardian angel of the police practically useful as a guide through the town, and, on leaving it, requested his official follower to present his most grateful thanks to the authorities for such a distinguished mark of their attention. The streets of Vienna, however, are not particularly difficult to thread ; so that after a few days' residence, a guide is scarcely required for that purpose, by any traveller having, what phrenologists call, a good

organ of locality. *A propos*, some years since, on explaining to your friend McD. the position of this organ, and its usefulness as assisting to a more ready knowledge of cities, he very happily remarked, that it should have been called the *street organ*.

I shall at length conclude by begging you to beware, on visiting Vienna, of the exciting effects of the concentrated decoction of coffee which is administered to the public at that agreeable evening lounge, the *Volks-garten*; for it would be impossible even for Mr. M'Nish, with all his knowledge of the philosophy of sleep, to make that knowledge available after partaking of such a beverage.

SEPTEMBER, 1836.

The attractiveness of various cities may generally, I conceive, be pretty well estimated by the time which a traveller, being unfettered by engagements, may find himself disposed to sojourn in each. According to our experience in this respect, therefore, the latter part of a single week proved tedious in Hamburgh; nine days amply sufficed both for seeing Berlin and Potsdam; six for Dresden, and two for Prague. Yet, as regards Vienna, after having loitered in it three weeks, we left the place not without considerable regret, having become perhaps too readily familiarized to the listless lounging system which so generally prevails there.

The luxurious enjoyments of the Austrian capital certainly afford an extreme contrast in this respect to the military habits and temperate recreation of the Prussian people.

Between Vienna and Lintz the country possesses beauty of a much higher order than any extensive district that had before met our view in Germany: on our left hand were seen the snowy mountains of Styria, rising at various distances behind each other, and on our right the Danube occasionally appeared, flowing through an undulating country of much and varied sylvan beauty; the practical operations of agriculture seemed also to be conducted in this district on a system superior to any we had before observed. The beautiful position of a convent which crowns an eminence at Molk, through which we passed, is very generally admired; and Napoleon having resided here for some time, when his army visited Austria in 1809, has, I suspect, given more celebrity to it than all the holy deeds of its former tenants.

At the village of Strenberg, where we hastily dined, a pleasing instance of the delicate tenderness of Austrian manners attracted my attention. The landlady of the inn was, when we entered it, doing the honors of the table to a party of guests, and was assisted in the performance of these duties by her only son. On the party breaking up, the youth advanced towards his mother and kissed her hand

in the prettiest possible manner. There was not the slightest appearance of affectation in this act of filial tenderness, indeed it was only by an accident that we observed it, and, though no doubt a daily practice, yet it seemed to be an ever acceptable homage to his mother's parental feelings. The interesting and intelligent countenance of the lad, added to this circumstance, and that of his speaking a little English imperfectly, did not fail to create towards him, in the minds of both C. and myself, a considerable feeling of interest.

Lintz, the capital of Upper Austria, is a clean, respectable-looking town, surrounded by a beautiful country, and hemmed in by hills, which are finely wooded and agreeably interspersed with patches of verdure and cultivation. In the suburbs, before entering the town, we passed by one or two very singular low built experimental batteries, by a series of which Lintz is surrounded. Of the military merits of these I am not qualified to speak, but their appearance is certainly much the reverse of being ornamental. A railway of considerable extent crosses the public road here, and is already in operation, both to Budweis and to Gmunden. The Austrian government, indeed, appears on the whole to have shown a more favourable attention to this new movement principle than some others professing greater liberality. Amongst the schemes hitherto rejected, however, is one of great im-

portance, which was intended to connect Milan with Venice, one which could not have failed to prove highly useful to that rich and populous district of level Lombardy, and would have greatly facilitated the movements of the multitude of travellers who annually resort to that country.

On entering the principal confectioner's shop in the town to *sponge* away a little time, we were immediately addressed by its master in French, not in the quiet *bonhomme* tone of a German, but with all the ardour and animation of a Parisian. The vender of sweets and pastry had, it appeared, been a soldier, and became accidentally cast into this district of Austria on the breaking up of the French army in 1813, when, finding that the good people of Lintz were not supplied with *bonbons* worthy of them, he condescended to embrace his present occupation, and pretty broadly insinuated to us that his having done so was one of the greatest benefits the town had ever received. Indeed, after having enjoyed his *puffs* of both kinds, we were compelled to confess ourselves somewhat of a similar opinion. A leading question was addressed to our military baker, in order to ascertain whether the vocation adopted was quite new to him; but the old *militaire* would not commit his respectability by a confession; for though there was no disgrace in being, as a soldier, compelled by the fortune of war to adopt his present

pursuit, yet to confess having been brought up to the kneading-trough was a degree of candour which he was not prepared to evince.

Saltzbouurg, towards which we were unfortunately compelled to travel during the night, possesses considerable beauty, and is picturesquely situated in the rich valley through which the river Salza flows, and environed by mountains on all sides. It is said to contain one of the most interesting cemeteries in Austria; and having a peculiar pleasure in beholding the rural taste which these retreats from worldly trouble sometimes exhibit, you may readily conceive the feeling of disappointment with which I ascertained this fact, not before being at a distance of at least twenty miles from the town. This district of country is honoured by the appellation of the Austrian Switzerland, and its mountains may be said to rejoice in a style of beauty almost peculiar to themselves, being of ample height, with sufficient of the variety of form and verdure of forest, without, however, rising into the grandeur of sterility and snow. The weather happened not to be clear during our sojourn in the valley of Saltzbouurg, nevertheless we had the benefit of some occasional glances at the mountains through the openings of the mist, to which even a purer atmosphere could scarcely have afforded any thing superior. You, no doubt, bear in mind Sheridan's counsel to his son, that

it was more wrong to go down into a mine merely in order to be able to boast that he had done so, than to claim that honour by a sacrifice of truth, without going through so ridiculous a labour. Disregarding the false point of his advice, I descended yesterday into the imperial salt mine at Hallein, not however without several failures and recoveries of courage having first taken place, till at length the guide happening to remark that ladies very frequently made the descent, it became impossible longer to hesitate, and there proved, fortunately, to be nothing which a person much more nervous might not have readily gone through. The mine is entered on one side of the mountain by a long gallery, after which there is a succession of steps and slides ending in another gallery, which conducts the visitor out of the mountain on its opposite side. The distance traversed from the entrance to the point of exit is stated to be six thousand yards, and occupied us above an hour, but the ventilation was so perfect that we felt no inconvenience from either damp or cold while passing through. The smooth round poles down which we slid were placed near to each other, at an angle probably of about thirty-five degrees, and on our right was a very stout rope, by putting one leg under which, and firmly grasping it with the hand, sufficient power was given to moderate, when necessary, the rapidity of our descent. Thus placed in a

reclining position on our backs, preceded by one guide, and followed by another, we shot down, while the lamps in our hands gleamed through the cavern like falling meteors. The height of the longest slide is about 180 feet, and I confess to have felt some regret when our descent terminated, for the effect of such rapid gliding along had become so agreeable as to amount to a positive sensation of pleasure. Before entering the first shaft, persons usually cover themselves with coarse linen dresses over their ordinary apparel. We had several opportunities of examining the salt *stratum* at various points along the passages, but I must acknowledge having felt disappointed with its dingy hue, and not having been conducted along those parts of the mine where the active operations are carried on, my knowledge of the subject was but little increased by our descent. If I understood the guide and his interpreter correctly, the mineral salt is dissolved within the mine, and the liquid is conveyed in pipes to the town below, where it is boiled and prepared. The most interesting portion of the mine is, however, its briny lake, eighty yards long and sixty broad, situated as nearly as may be in the centre of the mountain. This subterranean lake, which had, I believe, been lighted up in honour of our party, was gaily illuminated by numerous lamps, and we were ferried over it, in due form, by a deputy Charon, who,

of course, demanded and received his usual fee. This illuminated lake, altogether unprepared as we were for it, at a distance of about 3000 yards from daylight on either side, appeared, I must confess, as much like the fiction of an Arabian Nights' tale as a reality. Another singularity attending the basin of the lake, is, that there are no central pillars to support its roof. The designers of it must certainly have abounded largely in engineering faith, and the weight of the great mountain above appears to have sat as lightly on their minds as it marvellously does on the rock which forms the boundary of the lake. The department of the mine that is permitted to be visited appears to be chiefly maintained by the government as an object for the amusement and inspection of strangers.

The country through which we travelled towards Munich, after leaving the interesting district of Saltzbourg, was quite destitute of beauty; but on our left, in the far distance, the mountain-peaks of the Tyrol, clothed in their everlasting garments of snow, occupied a considerable portion of the horizon, presenting an interesting *coup-d'œil*, and recalling the recollection of such similar mountain chains in Switzerland, as are to be seen from Berne and the Righi.

One of the professors of Munich, with whom we chanced to travel two days from Saltzbourg, seemed amiably desirous to have afforded us local informa-

tion, had our mutual means of communication happily been somewhat more extensive. The university, of which he is one of the teachers, is, it seems, attended in winter by about 1800 students; and there being two other similar establishments on a smaller scale in Bavaria, while many students also resort to Berlin and elsewhere for instruction, the number stated affords a moderately respectable view of the cultivation of the higher branches of education by the people of this kingdom.

Bavaria, with a population of about 5,000,000, has an army of 40,000 men. Munich, its capital, is a gay and handsome city, the court end of which has been chiefly built within the last twenty years, on a plan combining regularity with good taste, and presents to the view streets of spacious breadth, while elegant mansions meet the eye in every direction. This city is considered to possess many attractions for strangers, to wit, a gay and accessible court, a population vying, in an humble way, with that of Vienna itself, in their devotion to the pursuit of amusement:—fine picture and sculpture galleries, a library of 500,000 volumes, a good opera, and a considerable variety of promenades, particularly one extensive covered arcade, which must prove an agreeable place of resort during inclement weather. Allured by these attractions, as well as by economical considerations, some of our British wanderers frequently take up their

winter quarters here, and on the Continent it is considered a pretty fair test of the agreeableness of a city when such connoisseurs in idling are found, in any considerable number, sojourning in it. For a traveller, one of whose principal inducements to wander is derived from the pleasure felt in beholding pictures, to be told on reaching Munich that the gallery was undergoing repair, and consequently shut to all the world, was, you will admit, a circumstance calculated to ruffle the current of one's temper, for the moment, more provokingly than even some of the greater evils of life. The sculpture gallery was however open to view ; and both in the classical style of its external architecture and splendid interior decorations, as well as in the excellent arrangement of its valuable contents, presented an extensive field for admiration. The celebrated Sleeping Faun (an antique) is no less striking than peculiar in its expression. It is impossible to conceive two marble representations of sleep more perfect, yet each more entirely dissimilar from the other, than this and Chantrey's *chef-d'œuvre* in Lichfield cathedral—one the placid sleep of youth, loveliness, and innocence ; the other the restless repose of a bacchanal, where lingering mirth and jollity still share with sleep the expression of the face. The laughter depicted in the countenance of the bust of a faun in this gallery, which is to be distinguished by a green stain in the

marble, is so natural, that but for its cold white hue, one would certainly imagine the expression to proceed from excited muscles rather than immoveable marble. His Majesty the King has also succeeded in domesticating in his gallery eminent ancient statues of two of the unfortunate sons of Niobe. The expressive attitudes of these creations of fable, and of ancient sculpture, are much admired by connoisseurs.

The lovely Venus, by Canova, may be considered as the presiding divinity of the modern department of the gallery, and the artist would appear, in so far as recollection enables me to make a comparison, to have succeeded in throwing more expression of soul, with almost as much of modesty, into the marble, as in his similar and better known work at Florence. The front drapery extends from the bosom to the ankle, and the timid shrinking expression with which it is in the act of being closer drawn, as if fearful of intrusion, seems one of the principal charms of the work; but indeed every portion of the figure is expressive of the most lovely delicacy. A sylph-like figure by Schadow, of a girl tying the string of her sandal, is also very pleasing; while an Adonis and several of Thorwaldsen's productions further enrich this room, which is exclusively devoted to the productions of modern genius.

The so-called Chapelle Riche, of Munich, may

be considered to well merit its name from the large quantity of gold and silver crucifixes, as well as other sacred objects which it contains, not forgetting the little miniature altar which Queen Mary of Scotland used during her imprisonment ; nor the mortal relics of innumerable holy persons, shrouded in pearls and precious stones. In visiting this chapel, it was, as you may readily believe, more disagreeable than flattering to observe the uncereemoniousness with which some of the German youths, who went through it at the same time that we did, were pushed aside by the attendants, in order to make place for such humble individuals as ourselves. Such attention might possibly have gratified us, could we have attributed it to the usual disinterested kindness of the Germans towards us as strangers : on this occasion, however, we were reluctantly compelled to account for the politeness on less generous principles ; the secret moving cause being, that the Germans do not usually reward the attentions of these custodiers, probably considering that their recompense is included in the national taxes which they pay, whereas the English, as strangers, not having this excuse, are induced to tax their private generosity.

The new palace, which is as yet only in part finished, is on a magnificent scale as regards extent, but a more elegant design than the external architecture exhibits (copied as it appears to be

from the Pitti Palace at Florence) might without much difficulty have been devised. The decorations of its interior are, however, in fine taste; and one room in particular, presenting a surface of pure white, relieved only by gold, will long dwell in my memory as a model of elegance and chasteness. The floors of the palace are inlaid with much care, somewhat after the fashion, on a larger scale, of Tunbridge boxes; but the effect of this wooden mosaic is, I must say, very inferior, to an English taste, to the elegant and comfortable appearance which carpets present.

Munich certainly exhibits more modern frescos than any other city I have seen, and of this reviving art the apartments of the palace offer many specimens especially beautiful—in tints fresh yet subdued, and conveying stories that speak to the memory, mind, and feeling. Some of the designs represent subjects taken from the ancient mythology and poetry, but perhaps the most interesting are those which illustrate the works of Göthe, Schiller, and the other modern poets of Germany; for it affords a double pleasure to find the imagination of the native poet thus appreciated, and peopling with its creations the halls or the sovereign. Schiller and Göthe have each a saloon, the walls of which are devoted to illustrations of their tales, and these apartments have received, we may conclude, the names of the poets

whose works they honour. One of the principal saloons represents a Muse seated on a throne, surrounded by portraits of the modern German poets. Such compliments do equal honour to the bestower as to the receivers of them; and are only second in point of taste to that proposed to be paid to Sir Walter Scott, when at Naples, by one of the foreign ambassadors, who, on giving a fancy ball during the sojourn there of the poet, requested that each of his guests should represent a character of the "Waverley Novels," and appear habited accordingly. Such at least was the proposal at the time, and I trust the magnificent conception was realised, for a more splendid group than the *dramatis personæ* of these novels, with the great magician himself as a spectator of the whole, the imagination can scarcely conceive.

The gallery of the duke of Leuchtenberg contains a very lovely and highly finished "Holy Family" by Murillo; and a picture which may at least be considered curious, of Petrarch's "Laura," from which, if faithful to the original, one is compelled to infer that his taste in love was not quite equal to his feeling in poesy. If indeed the likeness be authentic, Lord Byron may be excused for having said—

"Think you if Laura had been Petrarch's wife,
He would have written sonnets all his life?"

An exquisite group of the three Graces, by Canova,

lend a further beauty to the duke of L.'s gallery. Poor Canova's celebrity, if I am not misinformed, obtained for him an unenviable species of attention from the enthusiastic people of Italy, in their competition for the honour of entombing his remains. One city laid claim to these as being the place of his birth, a second demanded them in consequence of his having been enrolled among the number of her citizens, while a third alleged some other title; and these various claims were, it seems, only to be satisfied by the dismemberment of his body. Rome, Florence, and Venice, are, if I recollect aright, the honoured spots; one of which possesses his hand, and another his heart, while the third rejoices in the larger but less ennobled portion of his mortality. The apartment here called the Treasury contains a vast collection of gold and silver ornaments appertaining to the crown, with diamonds, pearls, and precious stones, beyond number; while the adjoining gallery presents portraits of the various dukes, electors, kings, and emperors of Bavaria, with their queens and nearest descendants, who have flourished since the year 511. Opposite to the most ancient of these is placed the family-tree, which is of a length sufficient in all conscience to satisfy, in that respect, even German pride. These portraits are infinitely superior, as works of art, to those shown in your Scottish gallery at Holyrood; but, as regards individual likeness,

they are too probably much on a par with them, excepting that all those which are exhibited here somewhat resemble civilised beings, which many of those in Edinburgh certainly do not. A native of this kingdom told me, the other day, with an apparent feeling of pride, that in by-gone times Bavaria had its emperors when proud Austria herself was ruled by dukes,—a fact certainly new to me, but not on that account perhaps the less likely to be correct.

The members of your profession, the law, are, I have some reason to believe, less numerous in Germany, proportionally speaking, than in Britain. The Germans appear to be of too well-tempered dispositions—besides being too intelligent, and perhaps too poor—to indulge in the unamiable excitement of litigation on small occasions. It is alleged, however, that German lawyers evince, when opportunities occur, a praiseworthy desire that the suits which do arise among their clients, should be fully discussed, and not rashly decided, several years being sometimes considered necessary for the fulfilment of this object. Germany would, therefore, be a very paradise for a certain gentleman of the north of England, whose mind requiring the constant excitement of litigation, purchased, for the better gratification of his passion, a property which was involved in a chancery suit; but Lord B. is stated to have some time since

nipped his pleasure in the bud, by hastily deciding the case in his favour, to the infinite chagrin, however, of the *amateur*.

The opera-house is one of the handsomest modern buildings in Munich, and we found it numerously and respectably attended on the evening of our visit. When the palace along with the other public buildings in progress shall be completed, this city will possess, as it even now does, very high claims to architectural distinction, and may realize, to a considerable extent, the evident desire which exists in the mind of the king to make it the German Florence. It is possible, however, that when the tax-gatherer makes his round, the Bavarians may consider the plans of their new palace and other public buildings too extensive, or at least too costly; but this feeling is perhaps inseparable from all extensive improvements; and, to speak truth, their taxes, including these public works, do not to English ideas appear unreasonable.

It is somewhat singular that the present king of Bavaria, whose father was the means of destroying so many monasteries, and whose queen is, I believe, a Protestant, should be so bigoted as to exert all his influence towards the increase of monkish establishments, and the fostering of those hives of drones, whose only attempts at industry consist in beggary. An answer which was given us the other day, by an *employé* here, pretty well conveyed the state of

popular opinion on this monkish subject ; for on my asking him to what purpose the building, which at present contains the royal library, would be devoted when the new apartments are finished, our guide sarcastically replied, "Probably that of a convent."

While going through this library we had the pleasure of accidentally meeting with Mrs. T., the caricaturist of America, who, now that the spleen engendered by the roughness of an Atlantic voyage is overcome, has become changed in style into a honied describer of Paris and Germany. The precision of this lady's information readily proclaimed her one of the *blues*, nor was her talent less easily to be discovered by the pungency of some of her remarks. Mrs. T. is, no doubt, again preparing to publish, and if so, there is certainly a fine field for her powers of description and satire in Vienna, towards which she is now journeying, should she prove willing to apply the caustic of her style to the elegant immoralities of that city, as effectually as she has done towards the western world in detailed exaggerations of the coarseness and fanaticism of vulgar virtue.

The cemetery here is a very extensive ground, and contains a vast number of neat and elegant monuments, but on the whole a deficiency of shrubs, as well as a certain want of taste in the arrangement, is perceptible. All dead bodies are, by law, ordered to be exposed for some time to public view

in a house adjoining the cemetery, as a security against premature interment. We observed several of these decked out and reclining in unconscious state, indeed on the countenance of one of them, an elderly lady, so much expression still lingered that it was difficult to suppose the spirit had quite departed from its earthly tenement.

We were readily admitted to view the *atelier* of Schwanthaler, the king of Bavaria's favourite sculptor, but found that such works, in an unfinished state, are scarcely calculated to gratify ordinary beholders like ourselves. After we had with reluctance been compelled to abandon all hope of seeing the picture gallery, it happened fortunately for us that a travelling prince arrived from Vienna, and chancing to be present at the moment he entered with a government order, we obtained admission under his illustrious auspices. Our view was hurried, and necessarily imperfect, as many of the pictures were at the time scattered over the floor in confusion; and finding that but few of them created any enthusiasm of admiration, I am unable to speak so rapturously of the collection as has been often done by others. The works of Rubens abound as usual, and the gallery is particularly celebrated for its collection of Murillos. Some of this great master's Spanish peasant-boys grinning their enjoyment of bread, grapes, rags, and filth, are

truly exquisite ; yet none of them appear to surpass his admirable picture in the Dulwich gallery, where the smile of triumph on the face of one of the boys is so finely contrasted with the chagrined expression of his companion. One very celebrated Murillo here represents an old Spanish woman holding a boy's head in her lap, and occupied in depriving it, after the manual manner of that country, of its *external animation*.

In addition to these, some good Guidos, Titians, and Rembrandts, with many works by Van der Werf Mieris, Dow, Teniers, and Velasquez, and one or two beautifully represented sacred subjects by Carlo Dolci, enrich the gallery. A torch-light picture by Van der Werf in particular, possessing a Schalken-like perfection of the peculiar glare of that light, conjoined with his own much higher finish, appeared to me a gem of the first water. The corridors of this gallery, which is named the Pinacothek, are at present undergoing the process of fresco painting, under the able directions of Professor Zimmerman. The object of these frescos will be to represent the illustrious masters of the various schools of painting ; the division which is most nearly completed pays honour to the artists of Italy, while the other compartments are to be devoted to those of the German and other chief schools of art. It would seem to be indispensable in fresco painting that the plaster should be tho-

roughly moist and painted almost within the hour, with which view it is put on in patches scarcely exceeding a foot square. The arcade promenade here, which is lined with shops, and probably extends to about one-third of a mile in length, is also abundantly ornamented with frescos, illustrating points of German history, as well as with views of many of the principal cities of Italy and Greece. The New Court chapel is likewise at present undergoing this universal process of being ornamented in fresco, and appears to be, in so far as the artistical part of the subjects are concerned, well adorned; but it seems singular that an enlightened monarch, in the present age, should deem it in good taste, or as tending to elevate the mind to heaven and devotion, to represent on these walls the Almighty Father in a human form.

Bavaria is the most populous of the smaller German States, and has a constitutional chamber of representatives, which is, however, stated to be more than sufficiently subservient to the illiberal views of the Court. This capital, though internally attractive, is situated in the midst of a dreary plain; it reckons a population of about 90,000, who are chiefly of the Catholic faith. The gentry of Munich have certainly a much less comely appearance than either those of North Germany or of Vienna, and the lower orders seemed to me to be especially coarse. Indeed, we observed scarcely any.

moderately handsome females in the course of our numerous walks, for one picture-loving little beauty, who was feasting her eyes on the attractions of the gallery, and somewhat distracted our attention, was evidently a stranger in Munich, and even she, like a meteor, darted across our sight, and was seen no more. It was perhaps well that it should be so, for the intoxication of such beauty rarely endures undiminished, but the remembrance of it may.

“ Sit but at heaven’s gate awhile,
And you so like an angel smile,
They’ll haste to let you in.”

His Majesty of Bavaria, however, actuated probably by the feeling of desiring most that which is least easy of attainment, has established in his capital a portrait gallery, for immortalising such specimens of native beauty as are to be met with. I trust King Lewis may succeed in his fair researches, but certainly, judging from all we have seen here, King Charles’s beauties at Windsor need not as yet hide their lovely heads by anticipation. It may, perhaps, be permitted me to remark, *en passant*, and entirely without malice, that many of the German ladies are in so far personally negligent as to appear to have less intercourse with dentists and tooth-brushes than could be desired. It is to be hoped, however, that, from their increased intercourse with other nations

they are gradually becoming more sensible of the importance of those enamelled pearls and principal outworks of female beauty.

Bavaria is, *par excellence*, the country of travelling broom-girls, gold and silver lace-padded head-dresses, bad German, and good beer. The rural population of some districts of Austria pride themselves on gold lace caps, properly so called, which entirely cover the head, and the women of North Holland on plates of gold worn over the temples; but what is worn in this quarter resembles a large toilet pin-cushion covered with gold or silver-lace, and stuck above the hair, covering what phrenologists name the regions of veneration and firmness. I must take leave, however, to say, that the appearance of those pin-cushions is somewhat ridiculous, notwithstanding their being patronised by the classical-minded king.

The Germans have so many troublesome considerations for political as well as commercial purposes, that it is to be regretted they should not hitherto have established one for securing a uniform monetary system. On entering Bavaria from Austria the value and description of the money again changes, and every such change is, of course, accompanied with considerable inconvenience to travellers, more especially to those who do not speak the language. The German humourists love to relate an anecdote of one of their countrymen,

whom they state to have travelled through France without difficulty, by merely using the word, "*Combien?*" and through England by the use of the words, "How much?" "*Was kostet 's?*" is the equivalent German expression, and would, no doubt, have answered our purpose moderately well, but for the numerous changes of money; while the phrase had also this advantage, in regard to memory, that, from its resemblance to English, it could scarcely be forgotten.

There has for some years been established in Munich an institution for the purpose of educating young Greeks, and the king has himself evinced so classical a predilection for that country, and so much Grecian taste in the public buildings of his capital, that it seems probable this may have been one of the causes which induced the Courts of Europe to look to his family for a king to modern Greece. I wish it could conscientiously be stated, in continuation of this subject, that his Majesty's liberality in matters of government is by any means equal to the taste which he displays in matters of art. But on the former subject his unfortunate anti-liberal prejudices are so strong, that it seems hopeless to expect his conversion to less despotic doctrines, unless, indeed, some such fine-drawn system of liberal politics could be dug up at Athens, as might prove a new-born sister to the arts of sculpture, architecture, and painting, to which he

does homage. The names which he has bestowed on the sculpture and picture galleries of Munich, "*Glyptothek*" and "*Pinacothek*," though breathing of that country where the arts arose, are yet exceedingly inconvenient for the lips and memories of unclassical travellers.

As a bachelor, you can scarcely fail to feel some degree of interest in such a comparison as a passing traveller may be able to make between the ladies of Germany and those of England. So generally lovely, they of Germany certainly are not ; as loveable, it may be, that they are, for they do appear to possess a large stock of amiable and disposable tenderness, which may well be conceived to excite a deeper and more enduring interest than even a more delicate order of beauty. Whether it be owing to this attraction, joined to more natural manners, or to their being less ambitious as to establishments, I know not ; but certainly a larger proportion of the ladies of Germany are understood to cast anchor in the haven of matrimony, than is the case in England ; for even dissipated Vienna itself is scarcely an exception to this good rule. The laws in many of the German states may be also considered as encouraging the formation of this domestic bond, since it is here by no means indissoluble ; for where no family ties happen to have arisen out of the union, either party desiring a separation may generally obtain

it ; and where harshness or improper conduct has occurred, to get unmarried is nearly as easy, in some of the states, as to get married. Mrs. Trollope correctly states in her book on Paris, that in France a single lady of mature years is a *rara avis* ; which one of her informants accounted for, in the true spirit of nationality, by alleging that the French were too polite a people to leave ladies in the uncomfortable and unprotected position of singleness. Now, therefore, that this important question has ingeniously been made an affair of national politeness, it is to be hoped England may spiritedly follow the example of her more fastidiously refined neighbour, so that club-houses may diminish while fire-side circles proportionally increase. Our neighbours of France have constituted manner and *esprit* the chief female attractions, and considering how comparatively rare high beauty is among them, the adoption of such a principle seems to have been politic. It is by these cultivable means that their plain tacticians frequently raise themselves to a point of attraction even surpassing those to whom nature has been more prodigally bountiful : and an equality is thus happily established which gives to all a more equal chance in the great lottery of female life. The French in this matter appear to act somewhat on the principle of the fop in the English comedy, who, in the overflowing of his affectation, alleges

that natural attractions do very well for common people, but that the *haut-ton* are quite independent of them, the acquired charms of manner being all their own.

As an illustration of the thousand civilities we have received from Germans during our excursion, I may be permitted to mention that in going through the Palace yesterday with a large party, a gentleman of this country, who spoke English, seeing that he was more *au fait* than our *valet-de-place* in regard to the literary sources from which the ornamental drawings were derived, came forward in almost every room to explain to us the stories intended to be conveyed by the frescos. Most English travellers have had occasion to record similar civilities; and instances are not unfrequent, in even the larger cities, of respectable persons walking considerable distances to guide a stranger on his way. If in England any one should perform towards entire strangers acts of kindness like these, he would infallibly subject himself to ridicule, and to indulge any such good-natured disposition would even be likely to convey an imputation of silliness. So different, in this respect, are the habits of life in the two countries.

SEPTEMBER, 1836,

IN proportion to the extent of the pleasure that travelling affords, becomes, in some measure, the vexation that we cannot always have with us, in such excursions, our most congenial friends to partake of its enjoyments. It is also curious to observe how one's mind turns, at different times, under the influence of this feeling, towards such persons as are variously associated with its sympathies, according to the nature of the objects which successively engage its attention.

The Germans are a people as generally *short-sighted* physically as they are clear-sighted mentally, for it is scarcely an over calculation to say, that every third or fourth gentleman one meets uses spectacles, while the ladies frequently carry moveable inventions of the same description in their hands. In Vienna, above all, so remarkably is this the case, that it seemed almost a conventional rule, that persons should regard each other in public places through a glass medium only; and there is, no doubt, much practical confidence inspired by the use of such transparent eye-shields.

Having had occasion to enter one of the principal shops while in Munich, filled with the multifarious productions of the cotton loom, I embraced the opportunity which the occasion offered to inquire of the proprietor whether any of his merchandise

was English, to which his reply was in the negative ; and this one instance is doubtless as good as a hundred to prove, that the German market is already lost to England. The proprietor of the shop exhibited abundance of cotton prints from Mullhausen in France, and Zürich in Switzerland, as well as from other quarters, and these pay the same duties as English goods, but are much preferred, both on account of quality, and the greater tastefulness of their style. Are the glories of Manchester thus already so faded, that her cotton lords are either unable or unwilling to compete with foreign manufacturers, by employing the first-rate talent in pattern designing? Though not at present considered as being of much consequence, it seems too probable that the loss of the German market will be severely felt in our manufacturing districts, after the effervescence which at present excites them shall have passed away. Pregnant with evil as the great German Commercial League is to the manufacturing interests of our country, it must be admitted to yield one small advantage to her travellers—namely, that their luggage is not liable to be examined in passing from one of the States to another. This trifling personal convenience, however, our patriotism would very readily have conceded in favour of any measure that might be considered more nationally beneficial.

A striking proof of English muscular strength

was accidentally brought under my notice here, in the case of a young officer residing in the same hotel with ourselves. A huge stone of probably not less than from three to four hundred pounds weight, which is chained in the palace-yard as a memento of the personal strength of some ancient Bavarian duke who had proved himself equal to its weight, was twice lifted from the ground by our compatriot, to the infinite surprise of the *valets-de-place* who witnessed the feat. The only other persons who, according to their authority, are known in later times to have succeeded in lifting this stone, are stated to have been a native of the Tyrol, and an English East India captain.

The country between Munich and Augsburg may be moderately well suited for agricultural purposes, but certainly possesses no features of natural beauty to interest a traveller. Augsburg numbers a population of about 35,000, possesses a large cathedral, handsome streets, and a picture gallery, which contains many curious specimens of the old German school. In former times, when Venice was in the zenith of its commercial glory, Augsburg was a great inland dépôt for the transmission and sale of its merchandise, and is still a town of much monied wealth, besides possessing several flourishing manufacturing establishments. In days of yore, one of its merchants, named Fugger, originally a weaver, is stated to

have amassed a fortune of six millions of gold crowns, and to have founded here a noble family, who may so far be considered as the Medicis of this quarter. Old Fugger appears to have frequently acted the part of a Rothschild to the Emperor Charles the Fifth ; and on one occasion, when he had the honour of entertaining that sovereign, lighted a fire of cinnamon, and on it made a burnt-offering of the emperor's bond for an immense amount. The room in which this transaction (not a very Rothschild-like one, by the bye) took place, is still shown to the curious in the excellent hotel of the " Three Moors."

The Gazette of Augsburg is considered a great political organ of Holy Alliance principles, and is certainly one of the most talented vehicles by which some of the northern courts of Europe occasionally communicate their opinions to the world. This town enjoys an ancient Protestant celebrity, as having been the place where Luther and Melancthon arranged many of the most important matters connected with the reformed church, with the Emperor of Germany. The country between Augsburg and Ulm is an uninteresting flat, entirely destitute of either beauty or variety. After having again crossed the Danube, we entered Ulm, which stands on the bank of that river, and consumed a leisure hour in examining its cathedral, which is the largest of Germany, and contains

seats for at least four thousand persons. Though now devoted to Protestant worship, some of the Catholic pictures, and other ornaments, still remain, and serve as mementos of a former faith.

Ulm is, at present, a town of very little trade; but the landlord of the finely situated hotel, "The Black Ox," where we dined, seemed to hope much from the effects of steam communication, which, it is expected, will be commenced next summer down to Vienna. It is calculated that the voyage downwards will occupy three days, and that back, being against the stream, six; this new mode of communication will afford an agreeable variety to travellers, who must naturally dislike to be jolted through so *triste* a country as Bavaria is. The distance from Ulm to Vienna by the course of the Danube is above five hundred miles, and some of the scenery is stated to be very beautiful. A railway of a few miles in length has been for some time in active and profitable operation at Nuremberg, some distance north of Ulm. Similar undertakings have also been projected from Ulm to Augsburg, thence to Munich, and, I believe, from Munich to Vienna; but caution is a principal element in the German character, and travellers must not, therefore, calculate on going through this country at high-pressure speed for many years to come. There are likewise, at this moment, a great many other railway projections under dis-

cussion in Germany, but each of these concerns seems to be waiting a movement from the other in a manner that is, to say the least, somewhat ridiculous, and such as the quaintness of the following lines, written in ridicule of an unfortunate expedition, pretty well illustrates :—

Lord Chatham with his sword undrawn
Is waiting for Sir Richard Strachan ;
Sir Richard, eager to be at 'em,
Is also waiting for Lord Chatham."

I do not feel disposed to speak very favourably of the comfort of Bavarian inns, or the integrity of Bavarian inn-keepers and *voituriers* ; indeed we here met with the first glaring instance of imposition that had fallen under our notice since being in Germany. The driver of our voiture seeming to consider, either that we extravagantly abounded in money, or were lamentably deficient in understanding, appeared to have entered into a league with the village inn-keepers, by means of which we were charged, for third-rate accommodation, very considerably more than we had paid in the first hotels of the capitals. In consequence of this fraud, we of course felt it a duty to ourselves as well as towards future travellers to show our appreciation of the coachman's kindness, by referring him, on parting, to his dishonest allies, the village landlords, for his drink money.

At Ulm we entered Wirtemberg, but ex-

perienced no variation from the previous character of the country, which continued of the same uninteresting description from there to Stuttgart, the soil appearing poor, and the people frightfully plain. It was, indeed, impossible to avoid remarking the peculiar appearance of the hair of the rustic women of Bavaria, which, from continued exposure to the sun, is of so many colours as rather to resemble the shades of a chesnut horse's mane than that delicate and beautiful material which Messrs. Rowland and Son daily sing the praises of as the chief ornament of females. After having passed through one small town celebrated for the manufacture of bone toys, and the troublesome importunity of the vendors, as well as through another, where a very long bridge holds a sinecure summer situation over an insignificant stream, we at length reached Stuttgart.

The kingdom of Wirtemberg contains a population of nearly a million and a half, and this its capital, above 30,000 inhabitants, who are chiefly of the Protestant religion.

Stuttgart is pleasantly situated in a basin-shaped hollow, surrounded by vine-covered hills, which so immediately overhang it, that it has even become a proverb, that if the inhabitants did not cut the grapes they would be liable to be drowned in wine. On entering the town, the manner in which the various walks and drives were planted, reminded us agree-

ably of English taste. It seems that the fine chesnut avenues in particular, which now afford such agreeable shade, have only been in existence about thirty years, and were planned and superintended by her late Majesty of Wirtemberg, formerly Princess Royal of England. Innumerable drawings, and other specimens of her Majesty's taste and industry, were frequently pointed out to us by the guides while going through the palaces, and the memory of her benevolent deeds appears still to live in the remembrance of the people to an extent which it is gratifying to learn. Many hundreds of the poor were, according to our informant, for many years supported chiefly by her Majesty's bounty.

The royal palace of Stuttgart is on a very extensive scale, and may also be regarded as a favourable specimen of architecture. The king's rural residence at Rosenstein, two miles distant, is likewise tastefully built, and very beautifully situated: the moderate size of its apartments, however, would seem to adapt it rather for the elegant comfort of private life than for the splendour of royalty. The late king of Wirtemberg maintained, we were informed, a very extensive public menagerie in Stuttgart; but his present Majesty's taste chanced to take another direction, and on succeeding to power he caused the majority of the animals to be sold, and the remainder to be

permanently stuffed with hay instead of being daily fed with carrion. They have now, therefore, left their humble stalls, and in their inanimate condition are promoted to drawing-room dignities, and places in the Museum of Natural History. The present lions of Stuttgart, *par excellence*, are his Majesty's Arab chargers, and of these he has unquestionably some cause to be proud. In endeavouring to gratify our curiosity by a morning visit to the king's stud, the *valet-de-place* conducted us through such a succession of stables that we were at length compelled to ask for mercy, and to leave several of the divisions uninspected. Five hundred horses do certainly seem a very large number for the king of Wirtemberg's private stables; but this taste of his should perhaps be considered a point of national policy, as his Majesty's attention to the improvement of the race, for which he seems indeed to have even more than an English partiality, is no doubt producing an important change in the qualities of horses in the country generally. The French *farceurs*, who love to indulge their humour by alleging that the first question which should be asked of an Englishman is, whether his horse is well, while the second may extend to the health of his lady and family, may without impropriety include his Majesty of Wirtemberg in their next *bons-mots* on this subject.

Stuttgart is by no means one of the German

seats of the fine arts, being without a sculpture gallery, and only possessing a very few unimportant modern pictures, which are crowded together into two or three small apartments. The *atelier* of old professor Danneker here, which contains his celebrated bust of Schiller, is, however, an object of some interest, and even the venerable sculptor himself seems to have no strong objection to being lionised. The Museum of Natural History, though apparently little resorted to, is very respectably supplied, and handsomely fitted up; containing among its treasures some curious fossil remains which were dug up at Rosenstein, and are considered to belong to the Mammoth species. To our unzoological eyes, however, they appeared to be merely the teeth and bones of elephants, and these are articles with the appearance of which a residence in Africa has rendered both C. and myself sufficiently familiar. The shady walks in the rear of the royal palace are very delightful lounges; and as we had the accidental good fortune to see this little capital in its holiday dress during the *fête du Roi*, the impression produced was altogether highly agreeable, but, probably, for the same reason, too agreeable to be correct, as compared with other periods of the year. The theatre, on both evenings that we attended it, was crowded to excess with fashionable-looking people. A pleasing and striking instance of the deference

paid to females here occurred on one of these occasions during the performance, for on *eine dame* being announced at the entrance of the pit, the crowd in the central passage immediately compressed itself, and permitted the gentleman who escorted the lady to convey her to the very front of the theatre. Similar politeness would in vain be looked for at either Drury Lane or Covent Garden.

A review of 3000 troops, which comprised about half the little national army, formed the amusement for the first day of the *fête*. Innumerable evolutions were of course performed on the occasion, and firing was practised in all its branches; but the swift running and timid doublings of some dozens of hares which were started in the field, and which the incessant fire of the soldiery unusually perplexed, seemed to excite more interest than the movements of the men themselves, so that the affair, I must confess, struck me as much in the light of a grand military coursing match as of a review.

The preparations for the annual races at Constadt are among the most extensive that are anywhere made in Germany. In fact, the scene had much of an English aspect; and I have never seen, even at home, the race-course of any town of the same extent so numerous attended. The numbers present were reckoned by our guide at from 30,000

to 40,000, and I conceive that number was by no means an over estimate. It was gratifying to observe the enthusiastic reception which both the king and queen met with on arriving at the race-course. His Majesty, though a good deal stouter, somewhat resembles in appearance our own good-humoured king; and two of the princesses could not fail to be considered attractive in any rank of life. A nephew of the king, the son of Jerome Bonaparte, who accompanied the royal party, is one of the chief military dandies and gallants of Stuttgart; his features bear a strong resemblance to those of Napoleon; but the 'grand intellectual style of forehead which so long commanded the nations, is unfortunately wanting in Captain Jerome. Opposite to the royal tent there had been erected for themselves, by the civic authorities of Constadt, a singularly tasteful arched and leaf-covered race-stand, built up of a variety of evergreens, with hop-vines trained round the pillars into fanciful supporters. The centre of this verdant creation was surmounted by a gigantic cornucopia, overflowing with apples, pears, plums, and Indian corn, with huge bunches of purple grapes hanging down at intervals to lend a bacchanalian appearance to the other productions of nature.

The king, on arriving, commenced the business of the day by ordering the distribution of prizes for the best horses, cattle, &c., after which the

favoured animals were walked round the course for public inspection. The day was fine, the arrangements were good, the company was gay, and the sight enlivening; but the race itself was quite a failure, unless indeed the *ludicrous* was the feeling desired to be excited. This, the first day's running, was devoted to the long-tailed horses of the neighbouring farmers, and the question to be decided might have been supposed to be, which were the most awkward—the riders or the ridden? The former, with cart-whips, loose trousers, and caps which, as the race proceeded, became strewed over the course, rode without stirrups, jostling and whipping each other's horses, and formed altogether a whimsical contrast to the dapper little feather-weight jockies of England. The second day's running might perhaps have somewhat atoned for the character of the first, as it was to be devoted to the horses of the king and the aristocracy; but these we had, unfortunately, not the opportunity to see. There was nothing throughout the race which could possibly create any feeling of excitement, although the people seemed quite willing to have given way to such a feeling, had it been at all possible for them to do so. One of the princes of Prussia, with his princess, happening at present to be on a visit to the king, perhaps somewhat more than the usual splendour had been got up to grace this occasion.

On surveying the gay royal party assembled on the Constadt course, surrounded by a hundred ministers, judges, generals, colonels, and other high functionaries, the idea involuntarily occurred to my mind, as to what a democratic son of America would think of these, as well as of the palaces, the army, the stud, and the equipages, as being deemed necessary for the government of less than a million and a half of people. A more perfect contrast to their simple utilitarian system of government could scarcely be conceived. Such a comparison having been naturally awakened by the scene around us, I trust you will excuse me for having given it a place; still, however, believing that a court is the best school of national refinement, and that the court of Stuttgart, in particular, stands peculiarly high in the affections of the people. To be the sovereign of a compact little kingdom such as Wirtemberg, enjoying all the splendour as well as the respect attached to royalty, is perhaps really more desirable than to govern a mighty empire with all its distracting cares and responsibilities. Any error of judgment in one of these smaller rulers produces no evil beyond the limited extent of his own territory, but a fault of temper or a wrong conclusion in one of the mighty sovereigns of Europe may scourge the world with war and lasting misery.

It would be the dream of a visionary to suppose

that the world is rapidly approaching to such a state of enlightenment and dispassionateness, that reason and justice will henceforth be called on to decide all national questions, instead of the sword. Europe, certainly, may not have reached this point as yet; but that such would become the case under universal and well-regulated constitutional governments, can scarcely be doubted, and the diffusion of education and political intelligence is everywhere tending towards this great end. It is fervently to be hoped that this increase of liberal institutions, as the foundation of peace and good government, may be accomplished by the progress of enlightened opinion, instead of that violence, which has been too generally resorted to in furtherance of such views; for though some of the youthful enthusiasts of Germany may desire more rapid changes than can be thus attained, there seems little reason to doubt that the mature intelligence of the country is in favour of the gradual amelioration of existing institutions. The German people also feel assured that there can be no retrogression in liberalism, and that the political advantages they are now too slowly obtaining are secure to their country for ever. The mind of any absolute king may, from ambition, temper, a thirst for glory, or the desire of excitement, frequently incline to war; but it is scarcely possible to conceive, that under a well-balanced constitutional system, sober and

peaceful reason should not prevail in deciding all the varied questions which can arise among nations. Having said thus much, it is only candid to confess that an excursion through either Prussia or Austria, in both of which the people certainly enjoy all the more important blessings of good government (though possessing no guarantees for their continuance beyond the character of their sovereigns), does tend, in no inconsiderable degree, to blunt the keen edge of one's English hatred of absolutism.

The rapid progress that has been made on the Continent during the last twenty years in all the arts which contribute to the enjoyment and refinement of life should surely be sufficient to convince even the most ambitious of sovereigns, that the path of peace is the most certain road to national greatness and prosperity. The energies of two or three hundred thousand men, which, if devoted to war, might devastate a country to fill up a crimson page in history, when employed in fabricating the comforts of modern life cannot fail to diffuse enjoyment among millions of their fellow-men. If, therefore, national wealth, population, enlightenment, and happiness be, as they ever should, the great objects of a monarch's ambition, these may certainly all be much more surely attained by peace than by war; and as to that species of royal ambition which only glories in the acquisition of new territory, the world can well afford, in the

enlightened times which are approaching, to dispense with its exhibition. It would be interesting to calculate, could one arrive at any fixed data from which it might be done, the comparative progress of the arts during an equal period of war and of peace. The result of such an inquiry would no doubt be a decision infinitely in favour of the latter; for the rapid progress of manufacturing skill in England during the late war is no evidence against this supposition, as our country was not the actual theatre of war at that period, nor were her artisans liable to be disturbed in the pursuit of their peaceful occupations.

The people of Stuttgart are, in their personal appearance, interesting, and you may not deem it unworthy of remark, that the finest blow of beauty which Germany has yet gratified us with the sight of, was in the theatre of this little capital, round the boxes of which the female flowers of the kingdom were conspicuously arranged in smiling loveliness, from the large peony style of complexion and comeliness, which the king is reputed chiefly to admire, down to the purer roses of less ample dimensions, and more delicate hues. All had evidently made their most elaborate toilets, and wore looks of pleasure and self-satisfaction corresponding to the elegance of their adornments, and the royal occasion of the fête.

In Wirtemberg, as well as in Prussia, travellers

never experience any difficulty in being forwarded by the letter-mail conveyance, as that establishment is bound to furnish such additional carriages as may be necessary for whatever number of passengers present themselves in due time. In consequence of this convenient arrangement, we were enabled to secure places for Frankfort within a very short period of the hour of our departure. The country between Stuttgart and Heidelberg is hilly, like the rest of Wirtemberg, and we were not long in reaching the frontiers: for it would, indeed, scarcely over-fatigue a good fox-hunter to ride entirely across this compact little kingdom in a day. Heidelberg is prettily situated on the river Neckar, and has the aspect of being a moderately agreeable place. Its ancient chateau and large empty wine-tun, along with its museum, university, and a small private picture gallery, are, I believe, the only sights it contains for the curious. The university of Heidelberg numbers among its men of science Professor Tielman, who, if busts and prints may be believed, is distinguished by one of the finest-formed heads in Europe; that its manifestations are corresponding, you, as a true disciple of phrenology, will not, of course, doubt.

The drive from Heidelberg to Frankfort is one of the most beautiful which Germany presents: the hills on our right hand being covered with vines to the road-side, while, on our left, the rich

alluvial plain stretching towards the Rhine, was a district evidently overflowing with abundance, and offered a tame contrast to these vine-clad hills which caused us to admire them the more. We chanced, during this part of our journey, to have, as a fellow-traveller in the *diligence*, a young lady of apparently humble rank, from one of the Calvinistic districts of Switzerland, who was proceeding to Germany to fill the situation of a nursery-governess. The party in the diligence was, as is not unusual in the public conveyances in this quarter, chiefly English; and as the future ruler of the nursery somewhat piqued the self-love of her fellow-travellers, by continued silence, and preferring the contents of a pamphlet to their conversation, I ventured, on a suitable opportunity presenting itself, to proffer an exchange of books, noways doubting that hers was a romance. The title, however, proved to be, as nearly as I can recollect, as follows:—" *Que faut-il faire pour être sauvé ?*" On reading which, one of her admiring fellow-travellers, in the spirit of compliment, presumed to remark, " *Soyez tranquille, mademoiselle, toutes les jolies femmes sont sauvées naturellement.*" The incense was not ill-merited, neither was it offered in vain, for we were in consequence immediately gratified by the young lady entering into an animated conversation with us; and she has no doubt since had abundant opportunity to learn that the object

of her little book is not considered in Germany so difficult of attainment as it is deemed in Switzerland.

Darmstadt is for the most part a modern town, and is, in so far as the more respectable districts of it are concerned, clean, regular, and handsome. The Grand-Duke of Hesse-Darmstadt's principal place of residence is here, but he unfortunately happens at present not to be in good odour with the people of his little duchy, in consequence of the taxes levied on them being considered somewhat burdensome. The late Grand-Duke, father I believe of the present, was more popular ; and is stated to have indulged his musical taste so much that it amounted to a species of harmonious monomania, one consequence of which was, however, that Darmstadt had, during his life, one of the best opera companies of Germany. It was by this means, probably, that he contrived to keep the minds of his subjects in tune ; but since his death the people of the duchy, finding that the taxes are higher while the opera is worse, have become dissatisfied. A characteristic anecdote is related of the old duke, which alleges that one day, while engaged at the rehearsal of an opera, an alarm of fire was brought to the theatre, on hearing which all the company were about to rush out, when the duke begged that a messenger might first be despatched to inquire where the conflagration was. It was

immediately ascertained to be at his own palace ; on hearing this, he requested they would oblige him by proceeding with the rehearsal, as there was an abundance of people at the castle to attend to the fire. It has been alleged that this duke's peculiarities must have been imported by some German traveller for the use of Sir Walter Scott ; and that these have in some respects assisted him in decking out the character of his good king René. The present duke, however, is supposed to be suffering for his father's musical extravagance, in the unpopularity arising from an exhausted treasury ; and he is further unfortunate in having for an immediate neighbour the prince of Nassau, one of the most wealthy and popular sovereigns in Germany, whose territory being comparatively rich, causes the taxes which are levied not to be felt as oppressive. The comparisons which, under such circumstances, a neighbouring people are too apt to draw, are all unfavourable to the government of the present grand-duke of Hesse-Darmstadt ; and many of his peasantry have been latterly seeking, in emigration to the new world, a relief from the taxation they so loudly complain of in the old.

We arrived at Frankfort in time to see the last two days of the fair, of the existence of which we were immediately made sensible, by not being able to obtain apartments in either of the first hotels. In sauntering through some of the second-rate

streets, on the day following our arrival, we found a considerable number of tents full of Dutch toys, pipes, cutlery, &c. which was all that was observable of the commercial part of the proceedings. The fair has, however, already lasted nearly four weeks, and yesterday notice was given, as usual, that strangers must no longer publicly vend their wares in Frankfort. There are, it must be admitted, some very spacious handsome streets here, yet are there also more than a sufficient number of an opposite description, as might reasonably be expected in so ancient a city as this is. The halls of the ancient *Maison de Ville* are adorned by portraits of all the elected Emperors of Germany for many centuries past; this honour of an Imperial title, which has for some time ceased to be elective, appears to have fallen latterly entirely into the hands of the Austrian royal family; and it is a singular coincidence, that the last niche remaining in the wall is occupied by a portrait of the late Emperor of Austria, who was the last elected Emperor of Germany. Frankfort for many generations possessed and highly prided herself in the honour of having the elected Emperors crowned within her walls.

The numbers of Protestant and Catholic inhabitants are here so equal, that it would perhaps be difficult to determine which sect predominates; a considerable *per centage* of Jews is however also to

be found, and Frankfort is the *ville de naissance* of all the Rothschilds. The new cemetery, which is situated at a moderate distance from the town, is tastefully laid out, and of considerable extent, including, among its arrangements, rooms where the dead bodies of poor persons, whose relatives may happen not to have suitable accommodation, are placed till the period for their interment arrives. While so placed, metal springs attached to bells are put in contact with the hands of the dead, and are intended to give notice to the persons in attendance, should any of the moving principle of life remain. Other preparations are also in readiness, with a view to restore animation, in case any symptoms of its presence should evince themselves; but it is almost unnecessary to say, that during the eight years that the system has been adopted, no instance of reanimation has occurred, and probably during a century to come none may arise. The design, though perhaps somewhat fastidiously careful, appears highly creditable to the benevolent feeling of the inhabitants and authorities of Frankfort. One of the principal attractions of this city is undoubtedly the statue of Ariadne riding on a panther, by Danneker. It is the property of Mr. Bethman the banker, but all the world are very liberally permitted to view it. The figure of Ariadne is so perfectly lovely, that one might almost have excused the old sculptor had he proved a modern

Pygmalion, and fallen in love with the work of his own chisel ; but the worthy professor did better, for at nearly eighty years of age he proved himself not insensible to the softer charms of a youthful lady, who now cheers his declining years as Madame D. ; and it is pleasing to find, by such unimpeachable evidence, that the heart of so ancient a sculptor has not been quite transmuted into marble. In Ariadne the artist may be considered as having realized the perfection of form and loveliness, without either attempting, or attaining to, that expression of mind and soul breathing through the marble which is the chief charm in the works of many other sculptors. In beholding Canova's Venus, for instance, one's eyes constantly turn towards the face, loving to dwell on its expression, so full of modesty and of feeling ; whereas in this work by Danneker, the eyes are contented to rest chiefly on the physical charms of the figure. On the whole it might be difficult, perhaps, to decide which is the higher achievement,—a countenance and expression so lovely as to cause the figure to be comparatively overlooked, or a form so perfect that while admiring it the face is almost forgotten. Had Lord Byron studied this statue of Ariadne, he could scarcely have presumed to speak so disparagingly as he has done of the “ nonsense of the stone ideal.” The museum of natural history in Frankfort is extensive, and the picture gallery,

which is resorted to by the citizens as a Sunday afternoon lounge, is by no means deficient in interest; containing many good Flemish pictures, a beautiful sea-view by Claude, and a splendid work by Canaletti. There are also in this gallery some good modern pictures, one of which in particular by Professor Schadow of Düsseldorf, illustrating a subject of sacred history, possesses a power of expression that will bear a comparison with the works of many of the foremost among the ancient masters; but time alone can mellow a painter's tints. Frankfort is certainly to be considered one of the most agreeable of trading towns, and is so abounding in wealth as to possess a very extensive and refined monied aristocracy. At the Casino here two of the English daily newspapers are taken in; and that most obliging of bankers, the English consul, is always polite enough to facilitate the admission to it of such strangers as may have occasion to communicate with him on either official or banking business.

Frankfort has at length, reluctantly, become a member of the German Commercial Confederation—a step so manifestly injurious to her prosperity, that political subserviency to the greater powers of Germany can alone explain it; for when an independent commercial city thus consents to sacrifice her interests at the dictation of others, it is only reasonable to infer that she is no longer

really free. The manufacturers of Prussia and Saxony do not of course require, like those of England, to make a *dépôt* of Frankfort for the sale of their goods, as they can and do supply them to the various districts of Germany by direct channels of communication; but if Frankfort had continued alone and true to her own interests, all the custom-house officers of the Confederation combined could not have excluded such British manufactures as might have been sold at her fairs, from finding their way into the extensive country which surrounds her. At present, the cotton fabrics of Saxony appear to be the most used and esteemed in this quarter; but a manufacturing spirit has at length been aroused in the Prussian provinces of the Rhine; so that, though Saxony may perhaps be so far the principal gainer by the convention, Prussia is likely soon to reap the chief advantages, as regards both profit and influence. Many observations which have recently been made to us, in the smaller states through which we have passed, have tended to confirm the impression, previously alluded to, that the military pride of the Prussians causes them to be pretty generally disliked throughout Germany. It is, however, a fact pretty generally admitted, that they are a more energetic people than any of their surrounding neighbours; but whether this difference arises from physical superiority, or is the result of

conscious national power, as compared with the kingdoms which surround them, it might be difficult to determine. The feeling of national pride, politically considered, may thus produce much good, and the Prussians certainly appear to possess that spirit in a higher degree than any other people of Germany. A not improbable solution of the superior smartness of the people of that kingdom may perhaps be found in the three years' military training they are all compelled to undergo; and, however great an encroachment may be thus made on personal liberty, yet if it result in such an improvement of the individuals subjected to it as continues through life, it may fairly be considered even to them as a gain. Corporal punishment is, I believe, not permitted in the Prussian service: indeed every circumstance tends to cause military life to be held in high regard in that kingdom, and the three years of military training must doubtless supply a host of agreeable reminiscences to the young soldiers when they become in after-life duly citizenised;—even the most obtuse during such a period can scarcely fail to acquire some military order as well as some national spirit. It will shortly, no doubt, become a matter of imperative necessity for the smaller states of Germany, as a means of self-defence, not only to imitate the Prussian system of military training to its fullest extent, but also

to maintain a friendly understanding with each other; else it is more than probable that an attempt may be made, on the first fitting occasion, to cause some of them to forfeit their present places in the political map of Europe.

Railroads, cotton-mills, and beet-root sugar manufactories, are at present the chief outlets for such little speculative spirit as the Germans possess. Railways have recently been projected from Frankfurt to Mayence, to Leipsic, and to Carlsruhe; but the number of small states through which they must necessarily pass, as well as the revenue at present derived by the various governments of Germany from posting and public travelling, are likely to prove serious obstacles to their formation. Beet-root sugar manufactories have been long established in France, and for some time also in Belgium, but are I believe quite new in this quarter of the world. If, however, they are advantageous speculations in the former countries, they will no doubt prove still more so in Central Germany, in consequence of the greater cheapness of land and labour, as well as of the increased expense which must be incurred in transporting colonial sugar from the more distant sea-coasts. The principal objection to this home-made sugar seems to be, that, though its colour is beautiful, when properly refined, its quantity of saccharine is, as compared with tropical sugar, small in proportion

to its bulk. In regard to that important subject, the rising cotton trade of Germany, if she annually imports, as is stated, fifty millions of pounds of cotton twist from England, and pays the Confederation duty thereon, amounting to half a million of dollars, it follows that this amount is capable of being saved to the consumers, and an infinitely larger sum gained to the manufacturers, as soon as the spinning machinery of Germany shall be sufficiently extensive to supply the requisite quantity. It is, therefore, reasonable to infer, from the progress now making here, that the demand on England for this our greatest article of exportation must shortly cease: unless, indeed, our Government, by an abolition of the Corn Laws, should both obtain a more favourable tariff from Germany, and by cheap food and labour, enable our manufacturers to compete with some reasonable hope of success against those of this country.

All the Germans with whom I have conversed seem very favourably disposed towards England; but it has, for a long time, been much the fashion for the public press of their country to speak of ours as on the eve of ruin by means of its debt. These writers either do not, or will not, know the wealth, industry, and resources of England, as compared with the present condition of Germany; and it would be just as reasonable for a Highland laird to suppose an English nobleman must be

ruined, because the latter, being possessed of only a smaller surface of territory, had contracted debts that would exceed in value his unproductive northern lands. Nothing therefore, could have more surprised these prophets of impending evil than the twenty millions of money paid by England for negro emancipation; that a nation, whose insolvency they had been continually proclaiming, should pay such a sum voluntarily for an object of benevolence, and be able to borrow the amount without affecting in any degree the value of her debt, seemed perfectly unaccountable to them. A large portion of the press of Germany has long laboured to cultivate an opinion that the embarrassments of England render war on her part all but impossible; and this impression has, no doubt, tended considerably to injure British influence abroad. Had a few millions of our public debt been patriotically paid off from year to year since the commencement of the present peace, such progress might already have been made towards its liquidation as would more surely have prevented any national insult being offered us, than all the official documents that ever emanated from Downing-street.

It was remarked to me yesterday, by an intelligent lady of this country, that she did not like Mrs. T.'s late work on Germany, because the authoress, with only one exception, viz., the smoking propen-

sity of the gentlemen, had *praised everything*. This is certainly the last accusation which, some years since, one could have imagined would ever have been brought against that fair authoress, but it has happily occurred that everything in this country has appeared to her *couleur de rose*, so that she may be considered as having been making atonement to the Germans, as well indeed as to the Parisians, for her offences against the people of the New World. As regards the people of Germany, this is perhaps scarcely to be wondered at, for the mildness and amiability of their manners is such as might disarm censoriousness itself; and whether one judges of them by physiognomy or demeanour, they seem so devoid of malevolence, that a traveller might almost be justified in concluding that more malice and uncharitableness exists in a single parish of some countries than in a whole kingdom of Germany. No one is better able than Mrs. T. to enact either the monitor or the censor, and should she succeed in persuading the ladies of Germany to moderate their excessive devotion to domestic drudgeries, and betake themselves to the more intellectual pursuits of literature, their country will certainly owe her a debt of gratitude for its increased measure of refinement, or indeed of happiness, for the mind of the sombre reader may thus imbibe the overflowing spirits of the gay, and the unimaginative revel in

the fictions of the fanciful. Though Germany abounds in authors, she boasts, I believe, comparatively few female writers, and those are chiefly natives of Prussia and of Saxony; that there are, however, numbers of ladies well qualified to lend a feminine grace to all the departments of literature suitable for them is not to be doubted. Mrs. S., of London, the talented and sole representative of her sex in the courts of science, has been this season travelling in Germany; affording another brilliant English example of mental cultivation to its ladies, among whom, I suspect however she must have found that, with all deference be it said, the higher mathematics are not at present in much repute. Several interesting anecdotes with which we were made acquainted at Frankfort led me to draw the conclusion that an enlightened commercial aristocracy, such as is here to be found, is more favourable to morality, as well as the diffusion of useful intelligence and the establishment of benevolent institutions, than that titled description of aristocracy which usually surrounds a German court. Frankfort, though not a University town in the usual acceptation of the word, has been quaintly named the great German University for those useful members of the faculty of feeding, hotel *waiters*; a description of graduates much more important to the traveller, during a tour, than the members of either of the learned professions. Each

of the numerous large hotels in Frankfort is therefore to be considered as a college for this class of persons from all quarters of Germany ; and every youth in them who exhibits the academic dress of a round jacket, or carries the diploma of a white towel in his hand, may be set down as a master of arts, and as the probable future landlord of an hotel in some quarter of Germany.

Our drive from Frankfort to Mayence proved sufficiently agreeable, and the country through which we passed is one of considerable agricultural richness. Mayence itself is so dull a town, that it would be difficult to point out any amusement for the mind of a stranger, unless drawing a comparison between the Prussian and Austrian troops which assist those of the Grand Duke of Hesse-Darmstadt in doing its garrison duty might prove so. Indeed, on the present occasion, I had not an opportunity of doing thus much, as our stay in this place scarcely extended beyond the hours of darkness and sleep. Soon after having left Mayence by the steam-boat, we passed the celebrated Johannisberg vineyard, of which all travellers naturally desire to taste the produce, though I suspect comparatively few really accomplish it. Previous to the French revolution this valuable vineyard appertained to an ecclesiastic, and was afterwards given by Napoleon to Marshal Kellermann ; having been finally, at the Congress

of 1815, placed at the disposal of the Emperor of Austria, it was presented by him to its present proprietor Prince Metternich.

To one who has previously sailed both up and down the Rhine,—who has seen it in the brightness of sunshine as well as through the gloom of mist—under the verdure of summer as well as the yellow tints of autumn, with the eyes of sober reason on one occasion, and under the influence of its own enlivening produce on another, as has been my fate, the greatest of charms, that of novelty, is no longer to be found. If, indeed “the best of life is but intoxication,” it might have been pardonable to-day, to seek from the wine of the Rhine that excitement which an unfavourable atmosphere prohibited the scenery from affording us; having however, embarked at an unreasonably early hour of the morning, that more innocent stimulant coffee was all that decorum permitted us to indulge in.

SEPTEMBER, 1836.

NEARLY all the travelling portion of the community are destined to behold this district of Germany more than once, and as you may yourself shortly be expected to commence your touring, I shall presume briefly to hint in what manner it appears to me the romantic Rhine may be most advantageously viewed. On the first occasion, therefore, you should sail *up* the river, and be content to see it unexcited by the juice from its banks, for the scenery itself is, for the first time, alone sufficiently intoxicating; and the slow progress of the boat as it labours against the stream is, under these circumstances, a decided advantage. Sailing *up* has also this further advantage, that the mind is gradually and pleasingly prepared for the grander beauties of Switzerland; whereas, to one who had recently left that country, even the Rhine scenery would appear somewhat tame. On the second occasion you may condescend to sail *down* the stream, and while doing so try what magnifying effect a bottle of Rhenish wine may produce upon its beauties; for, although you need not hope to find the true Johannisberg on board the packet, yet that which is sold under its name will probably strike you as being of a sufficiently desirable quality. The exceedingly rapid progress of the boat gliding downwards with the stream, and the

increased circulation of system resulting from the bumpers prescribed, could hardly fail to create such a delightful confusion of mind, that the beauties of the scenery would doubtless be as likely to be seen double as other objects. Immediately above Bingen, we found the Rhine's more decided attractions commence; but this river is certainly not one of those beauties that appears to the greatest advantage in dewy tears, of which superabundant showers were to-day lavished upon us from the sky. Half the world of curious travellers are induced to stop a day at Coblenz, in order to see the castle of Ehrenbreitstein, which is sometimes styled the German Gibraltar, and was rebuilt after the year 1816, at the expense of the French, who had previously destroyed it. This and the surrounding forts, which are named after the sovereigns originally forming the Holy Alliance, cost the French government, according to the statement of our guide, a sum which appears too enormous to be mentioned on such questionable authority. The position of this fortress is exceedingly commanding, but of its strength military eyes alone can judge; the Duke of Wellington, however,—no mean authority on such subjects,—is reported to have said, that *iron* balls could not take it; against the golden bullets to which treachery has sometimes surrendered strongholds in Europe, no place can

be considered proof, but the gallant duke, of course, considers that the precious metals are not fitting to be employed in heroic warfare. The view from the castle is very extensive, and embraces a prospect several miles up and many miles down along the Rhine, discovering no fewer than thirty towns and villages; while, immediately opposite, stands the beautiful bridge which crosses the Moselle, diminished, as viewed from the castle, by height and distance to the semblance of a toy. These rivers differ nearly as much from each other in their hues, as do the Rhone and the Arve at Geneva; and likewise flow side by side for a mile or more; the white-coloured waters of the Rhine being bounded on the west by the comparatively blue Moselle, and mutually declining to mingle on a first meeting; indeed one might imagine, were it orthodox for rivers to feel, that the aristocratic Rhine, proud of its Alpine descent, was rather shy of its less important companion, and crowded the Moselle into somewhat less than its natural space against the low bank of the river. Ehrenbreitstein, and the neighbouring forts, contain at present about five thousand Prussian troops, and within the last two months as many as 25,000 men are stated to have been reviewed by one of the royal princes in the opposite plain.

The monument which was erected by the French at Coblenz, in 1812, pompously to commemorate

their expedition into Russia, has been successfully travestied by their northern opponents, and seems to be the only object of interest in the place ; indeed it speaks more than volumes could do in favour of the taste and satire of the Russian general who inscribed the following simple but piquant addition to it:—" Seen and approved by the Russian commander at Coblenz, in 1814." Such, and so rapid, are the fluctuations of war. Coblenz is a dull town of 16,000 inhabitants, and was, previously to the French revolution, in the territory of the elector of Treves ; under Napoleon, it became the favoured and principal town of the department of the Moselle. Since the congress of Vienna, the government of Prussia has, from considerations of policy, permitted these provinces allotted to it on the left bank of the Rhine to continue to be ruled by the Code Napoleon, which is, I believe, much more popular in this quarter than the laws which are in force in the other parts of the kingdom.

This ungenial season will, it is feared, prove a most unfortunate one for the proprietors of vineyards on the Rhine, indeed it is believed that there can be scarcely any wine made which will prove fit for exportation, while the white grapes in many situations are hardly expected to yield more than will repay the labour of cutting them. It would appear that there is, on an average, in this quarter, scarcely more than one very good wine

season in about six or eight years ; and as the vintage of 1834 was duly favoured by the sun, it is as yet too soon to hope for another of first-rate quality. The vineyards and farms along the Rhine, as well indeed as throughout this district of Germany generally, are chiefly owned by the farmers who cultivate them, who thus present a condition of independence and equality which must be considered as desirable as it is favourable to happiness in all countries. It is alleged, however, that the money-making wine merchants of Frankfort, Mayence, and Cologne, are the persons who derive the principal benefit from the enormous prices which the English, French, and others are compelled to pay for their fanciful Rhenish wines. It is also insinuated that thousands of our countrymen have had reason to regret purchasing their Hock by samples tasted on the banks of the Rhine instead of the Thames, since the London Docks continually overflow with the best wines of every country—and procurable at prices that may be considered moderate, as compared with those extravagant ones which are usually charged to private English purchasers abroad.

It was stated to us yesterday by a gentleman at Coblenz, that so many as 75,000 English have visited the Rhine scenery during a recent season, and for travelling purposes the season scarcely embraces more than four or five months of the

year. It is, therefore, little to be wondered at, that our nation should be frequently characterised on the Continent by the title of the wandering or gipsy English. Though, geographically speaking, the Rhine is not only a river, but one of the most noble, yet as regarded in relation to its scenery, it may be considered rather to resemble a succession of beautiful lakes, changing, to the eyes of the beholder, every few minutes as the vessel follows its numerous windings; and were a traveller to be conveyed by enchantment to the deck of a steam-vessel, pursuing its downward course, he would be much more likely to suppose himself on a lake than on a river; for so closely is the stream hemmed in by hills on all sides, that no apparent outlet is to be perceived. To offer any description of such scenery would be as much beyond my power as it is beyond my ambition, and to attempt it in prose would be to profane the elements of poetry, with which nature, chivalry, and tradition have so largely endowed it; the following descriptive lines, by Lord Byron, depict, however, some of its principal charms very concisely, and I humbly conceive, very effectively:—

“ The castled crag of Drachenfels
Frowns o’er the wide and winding Rhine,
Whose breast of waters broadly swells
Between the banks that bears the vine.

* * * * *

And peasant girls with deep blue eyes,
And hands which offer early flowers,
Walk smiling o'er this paradise ;
Above the frequent pendant towers.

* * * * *

The river nobly foams and flows,
The charm of this enchanted ground,
And all its thousand turns disclose
Some fresher beauty varying round.
The haughtiest breast its wish might bound
Through life to dwell delighted here," &c.

It is, I think, in all cases necessary to treasure up a few names to carry about with one as so many certificates of travel, and in this quarter the mountains and crags called the Rheinstein, Kaiserstuhl, Godesberg, Gutenfels, and Drachenfels, with a few more, are perhaps as many as a traveller, having such an object in view, need load his memory with. To see, and namelessly to admire the other romantic hills, will generally be felt as being amply sufficient. At the town of Neuwied, on the west bank of the river, there are, we were informed, some Moravian schools, in which many young English, of both sexes, receive useful educations, and where they have, from mixing with French and German children, such facilities for the acquisition of languages, that their youthful progress in modern tongues seemed abundantly satisfactory to some of their parents, whom we chanced to encounter on board the packet. The Rhine is, at present, so much visited by Eng-

lish travellers, that there is in reality really little more reason to be surprised at meeting an acquaintance on its surface than on the great north road ; yet I must confess having felt more, both of surprise and pleasure, in recognising a Scotch friend, on entering the steam-boat at Coblenz, than a similar rencontre would have occasioned at home.

The convent on the island of Nonnenwerth, which the unsentimental proprietor some years since unsuccessfully attempted to dispose of by lottery, has recently had its sanctity and romance disturbed, by being converted into an hotel. It was in this convent that, in days of yore, the gallant knight, Sir Roland (nephew of Charlemagne), on his return from a crusade, found that his lady-love had taken the veil, and was lost to him in this world for ever. In consequence of this disappointment of his most cherished hopes, the castle on a neighbouring hill, which is still called Rolandseck, is stated to have been erected by him, in order that he might thence behold the cage that contained his now too holy treasure. Campbell and Schiller have immortalised this religious romance in modern song, and it appears that Sir Roland, having thus lost

“ the only tie,

“ For which he hoped to live or feared to die,”

sought and ultimately found death in the battlefield.

Cologne contains above 60,000 inhabitants, who are nearly all Catholics ; and no one, after having spent a rainy day in the place, will feel disposed to envy the people their locality, as it offers few objects for either amusement or inspection, and even its own double-distilled perfume, which travellers are teased at every corner to purchase, will prove insufficient to defend another of the senses against the various odours which constantly assail it in passing through the streets. The cathedral of Cologne, if completed according to the original plan, would form one of the most magnificent Gothic edifices in existence ; but the religious enthusiasm which led to the expending of millions on the architecture of a single church has long since departed, and does not appear likely to revisit Germany. The gallery which is here devoted to the fine arts, is quite in keeping with the character of the town, and exhibits merely a few paltry pictures and trifling antiques ; there is, however, a small private collection of paintings which may be viewed by persons not already satiated, as possessing somewhat more merit. A fixed and, by the bye, not a very moderate tariff is now established here, intended, no doubt, for the especial purpose of taxing such English travellers, as may desire to visit the tomb of the three kings, the bones of St. Ursula's 11,000 virgins, and Rubens's celebrated picture of St. Peter nailed to the cross. The two former are,

I conceive, scarcely worth visiting, and the picture, celebrated as it may be, seemed to me a painfully vivid representation of human suffering. If reflecting Protestant travellers did but consider how much, by their seeming acquiescence in some of these superstitious exhibitions, they not only encourage bigotry, but contribute immense sums to the support of Catholicism, few would gratify a culpable curiosity by the inspection of objects little calculated to afford any rational satisfaction. A very large proportion of the English travellers, who annually visit the Rhine, visit these curiosities, and by doing so voluntarily contribute a great many thousands of dollars as revenue to the Catholic priesthood, to be probably applied for proselytizing purposes. In no part of central Germany are similarly extravagant exactions made on the purse of a traveller, so that the tariff here established may be not improperly considered as a tax imposed on the curiosity of English heretics, for the benefit of the Catholic church.

Düsseldorf, situate about twenty miles below Cologne, is considered by the Germans an agreeable place of residence, and is said to be, next to Mannheim, the most regularly built town on the Rhine. To resemble Mannheim in that respect is, however, scarcely a recommendation, for its regularity is quite monotonous, and the sameness of the streets such, that it is difficult for a stranger to distinguish

one of them from its fellows ; so that it realises, as nearly as a town may, a parody on the lines which satirise the impropriety of torturing gardens into straight lines :—

“ *Street* nods to *street*, each *alley* has its brother,
And half the *pavement* just reflects the other.”

Our *valet-de-place* at Cologne chanced to be tolerably intelligent, and did not so far mistake us as to imagine, when we desired to be shown the former residence of Rubens, that Rubens was a friend with whom we purposed to dine, as is said to have occurred to an English traveller, some years since, at Lausanne, when he inquired of the waiter of his hotel for Mr. Gibbon's house—“ I am very sorry to inform you that poor Mr. Gibbon is dead,” being the reply brought back to the gentleman after half an hour's search.

Elberfeld, a few miles from Dusseldorf, may be considered as the Manchester of Prussia, and can scarcely fail to increase rapidly in prosperity, now that British manufactures are practically excluded from near thirty millions of the people of Germany. At present, however, it is not so well supplied with coal as its manufacturers could desire, but a railway, which is now in contemplation, will, it is believed, shortly obviate this important deficiency. It certainly appears somewhat uncourteous of the Germans to have united in a convention virtually excluding the manufactures of a liberal nation which

regards them so favourably as England does, and within so short a period after Mr. Huskisson's so-called reciprocity system has conferred such vast benefits on the maritime interests of Prussia, as well as other northern states. It is indeed too provoking, that a large class of British ship-owners should be ruined, and the increase of our commercial marine checked by extravagant concessions in favour of Prussian vessels, and that these results of a liberal policy should scarcely have developed themselves, than Germany returns such favours by excluding our manufactures from her ports. But it may not yet be too late, on our part, to retract a boon which has been so requited ; a course to be desired not more on account of the loss of wealth which arises from the ships of Prussia now being the carriers of nearly all her bulky produce to the British shores, than from the loss of our naval supremacy, which their employment involves. The naval power of England must, of course, be measured by the extent of her commercial marine, and on that naval superiority depends, in a great measure, not British prosperity alone, but the safety likewise of existing liberal institutions throughout the world. It would be out of place, in a letter of this nature, to enumerate in detail the yearly increasing employment of foreign vessels as carriers for England ; but estimating the number which reaches our shores from the northern coun-

tries of Europe at only two thousand, these alone must train up a quantity of sailors sufficient for manning nearly fifty line-of-battle ships, into which, when occasion required, they might immediately be transferred, and brought against us on the first declaration of war. A vessel is, I believe, the only article of foreign manufacture which can enter Britain, and be in use, free of all duty ; and if the foregoing view is, in any measure, correct, it ought to bear the highest tax. One of the most ancient acts of injustice on record, that of commanding the children of Israel to make bricks without straw, is hardly more unreasonable than compelling British shipowners to compete with those of Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Prussia, whose men, vessels, and provisions, cost them little more than half of what ours do. As the price of provisions chiefly regulates the value of all articles in the production of which considerable labour is employed, it necessarily follows, according to the dictates of justice as well as of sound policy, that a free admission of foreign corn should have preceded, by at least some time, the free entrance of foreign shipping, or of any manufactured commodity from a more cheaply provisioned country to Great Britain. The landed aristocracy, however, being omnipotent in the legislature, and regarding only their own immediate interests, did not hesitate to pass a law which in effect declares to the owners of British ship-

ping,—“ You shall continue to purchase our timber and provisions at double their continental value, while at the same time you must compete without any countervailing advantages with the shipping interests of all the most cheaply provisioned countries of Europe.” England being the chief consumer of the timber, tallow, flax, hemp, &c., exported by these northern nations, which it is the principal occupation of their inhabitants to produce, it does appear somewhat Quixotic generosity to make them her maritime carriers also, and thus train her probable future enemies into formidable naval rivals. An individual merchant purchasing any of these commodities, and having vessels of his own, would naturally stipulate for their employment ; and if I mistake not, this argument applies with double force when considered nationally, as the policy of a state should be so regulated as to aim at power no less than gain. Ship-building may not improperly be considered the chief manufacture of Prussia, as cotton cloths are of England ; yet, while her vessels are freely admitted into our ports, every article in which we excel is loaded with an almost prohibitory duty ; it is, therefore, sufficiently evident that a fair reciprocity should have consisted in the cotton and woollen cloths of England being admitted into Prussia as free of duty as the shipping of Prussia is into England.

There appears to have always been, what I am

disposed to consider, an unfortunate tendency in the larger states of the world to absorb the smaller, as already has occurred to a considerable extent in Germany, and of which we are not unlikely to behold some further examples. Austria appears now to have resigned, in a considerable degree, the influence she formerly exercised in the Germanic confederation ; while, more ambitious Prussia has usurped her place in that union, and possesses, in addition to the political weight which her position and extent naturally give, a strong moral influence, arising from the just and amiable character of her king, as well as the intelligence of his government. So long as this influence is exercised, as it has been during the reign of his present Majesty, for the legitimate purpose of advancing German improvement, it is to be viewed as a blessing ; but ambitious sovereigns may hereafter occupy the throne of Prussia, whose power is too great to be resisted in such an event, by her smaller neighbours, unless indeed a system of united defence should be adopted amongst them. A very large addition was made to the Prussian territory by the congress of 1815, comprehending the Rhenish provinces, to which she had no previous claim, and of which, more especially those on the left bank, it appears both geographically and politically unnatural that she should be possessed.

If the former territories of the electors of

Mayence, Treves, Cologne, &c. had, after the late war, been united, they might have formed a very compact little kingdom, with a population of several millions, and would have proved a desirable boundary between revolutionary France and military Prussia. France was, however, the great bugbear of the day, and, in seeking to depress that military power, the Congress perhaps scarcely foresaw to what an extent its decision would raise up another. The policy which gave Prussia territory beyond the Rhine, is likewise to be regretted in so far as it is an arrangement more likely to lead to than to prevent future wars; for it is well known that, in France, an opinion very generally prevails, that this river is her natural boundary. That view, however, evinces more ambition than justice; as the Germans say, and I think with truth, that the Rhine is to them a national stream—not a boundary of their country, but their own much loved and beautiful river, flowing through it—German being the language spoken on both banks, from Strasburg downwards to Holland. These Rhenish provinces may now in truth be considered as constituting both the wealth and the strength of Prussia, her original territory being a comparatively barren and unimproveable district.

It has been stated, and I believe correctly, that the king of Prussia, during his struggle against

the dominion of France, promised to the people a constitution. If so, the promise has yet to be redeemed, for it would be unjust to suppose that a monarch, so highly esteemed as his Majesty is, should desire permanently to evade the fulfilment of a promise made under circumstances so sacred as those of individual and national danger. It is at least certain that the people of Prussia ardently desire a constitution, and that they are prepared for it by an extent of intelligence which exceeds that of almost every other country. Furthermore, it should be considered that this is a question which the interests, not only of the kingdom, but even of the royal family itself, demand a settlement of, by his present Majesty, as there would be innumerable difficulties attending the commencement of a constitutional system, which the influence of such a character as his might be all powerful in overcoming. If the democrats of France, and the ultra-radicals of England, would but well consider how much injury their extreme views and violence do in retarding the establishment of moderate constitutionalism in some other countries of Europe, they would surely see the propriety of somewhat moderating the expression of their zeal. Opinion differs so much in regard to the character of the heir-apparent to the throne of Prussia, that it seems difficult to arrive at any decided conclusion as to what may be the

prospects of the kingdom under his sway. It is certain, however, that on the disposition of this prince, should his reign prove a lengthened one, will greatly depend, in all probability, the tranquillity of Europe during a considerable portion of the ensuing half-century. The kingdom of Prussia, under a constitutional system of government, would naturally prove an efficient boundary against the ambitious views which are attributed to Russia; indeed that power is so obnoxious to the people of Germany, that no Prussian ministry could (even if disposed) lend an aid to any of her ulterior schemes. If, therefore, we consider, as it is not unreasonable to do, that the love of war is a savage propensity, the besetting sin of rude nations only, there is surely cause to infer, from a vast variety of circumstances, that enlightened Prussia will hereafter prove a powerful auxiliary in the great cause of universal peace.

All travellers who have visited Germany, must surely unite in desiring that the country should continue to be divided, as it is at present, into small kingdoms—too many of these have indeed already been swept away, which might still with advantage have existed; but fewer than there now are the traveller and the politician would alike regret to find.

On entering any of the cities of Germany, which have ceased to be seats of government, there is

always observable an aspect of desertedness, which speaks of happier days, and proclaims faded prosperity; whereas, in Dresden, Munich, Stuttgart, or Carlsruhe, every object manifests the care of a government as well as the enlivening presence of a court. These little central capitals being accessible to all the subjects of the kingdom they represent, their refinement, their literature, and their wealth, find their way even to its furthest borders. In the overgrown kingdoms of Germany, matters assume a different aspect in this respect, for such large cities as Vienna and Berlin have a tendency to drain all the wealth, talent, and respectability from the distant provinces, and are too far removed to yield them the same benefits in return which the capitals of smaller kingdoms do. How very different, for example, would the condition of Poland, Bohemia, Moravia, Hungary, and Lombardy be, if, instead of forming the remote provinces of great empires, each of them had its own capital enlivened by the residence of a court,—statesmen studying its local interests,—universities spreading intelligence, and schools of art diffusing refinement around them. On the same principle, Constantinople, which, as the head of the Mohammedan empire, is like a beautiful eastern gem set on the confines of Europe, for the gaze and admiration of the curious, would, as a provincial appendage of Russia, cease to be an object of interest; by such a transfer, the queen of

the Bosphorus would be shorn of all those eastern attractions with which imagination and the love of novelty surround her. It seems to be believed that the friends and admirers of Prussia are endeavouring to undermine the independence of some of the smaller neighbouring states, by cultivating an impression among the people that they might be more cheaply governed under the dominion of that kingdom than under their present rulers. Such an opinion may possibly be correct, but it is, at the best, a low mercenary argument, unworthy of the consideration of a people possessed of any national feeling ; and the reply made from Hindostan by the Marquis of Wellesley to the East India Directors of that period, is the best answer to such a proposition :—
“ I cannot submit to govern kingdoms by the ‘ Rule of Three.’ ”

Aix-la-Chapelle (where we first halted for a day after leaving Cologne) is pleasantly situated in a moderate hollow, beautifully surrounded by hills, some of which are pleasantly wooded. It is within the limits of the Prussian territory, and was a few days since favoured by a visit from two members of the royal family. This town is stated to have been of old selected by Charlemagne for his seat of government, on account of the good hunting which the neighbourhood afforded, as well as the advantage to be derived from its fine warm baths—a luxury to which that hero of a thousand years

by-gone is said to have surpassed even Napoleon in his attachment. There is, however, little now left to proclaim that Aix was once the seat of such a mighty empire. The older parts of the town contain little for a professed non-antiquarian to admire, but some of the modern streets in the neighbourhood of the new theatre present a handsome appearance ; and the *maison-de-ville* certainly exhibits a very singular style of antique architecture. The cathedral of Aix did not seem to me particularly remarkable, unless in so far as the circumstance of its containing the remains of Charlemagne, with some hundreds of relics, and a few pictures, may be considered to render it so ; here again the priesthood contrive to levy a considerable toll on the curiosity of such travellers as visit the sacristy. On this occasion, I must confess to have felt even more than usual difficulty in conforming to the appearance of assent, which civility demands, on being shown by a priest a portion of the real cross, the girdles stated to have been worn by Christ and by the Virgin Mary, as well as many other relics, inclusive of the bones of innumerable saints. In short, I conceive that the gilded toys of the sacristy are scarcely worthy of attention, unless they be intended as a test of one's belief in relics. An exception to this might perhaps be made in regard to persons curious in craniology, who may here behold the magnificent skull of Charlemagne, which, though

partly covered by a silver plate, yet sufficiently well discloses the natural form of the head. The size appears unusually large, even for a man of the emperor's great stature, while in shape it even rivals that of Napoleon. In ancient times, when personal strength was considered of more value than intellectual superiority, Charlemagne's gigantic size must no doubt have assisted powerfully in affording stability to his extended authority. A somewhat pardonable desire to have his name blended with that of the great emperor of the dark ages as a benefactor to Aix, was no doubt the chief cause that induced Napoleon to patronise it by an occasional residence, and many important improvements, in and around the town, have resulted from his patronage. A picturesque hill in its immediate neighbourhood was, for example, planted by his order, and now affords shelter in winter, and shade in summer, to the inhabitants; there are indeed few more beautiful situations than that occupied by a summer café which stands on this hill, and it was quite refreshing to our eyes again to behold, from this commanding station, a country prettily divided by hedges, and studded over with mansions and farm-houses, after the manner of England. There are indeed few views to be met with on the Continent which comprise more cultivated and varied beauty than that which this situation affords, and the fields of the neighbourhood possess

likewise a happy irregularity of form, which is, I think, an important improvement to the character of the scene. The population of Aix-la-Chapelle is computed to be about 60,000.

In Prussia Proper, beyond the Rhine, the police regulations against public gaming are peculiarly rigid, though even in Berlin it is understood to be indulged in *sub rosa*. In Aix-la-Chapelle, however, (Prussian though it be) gaming appears to be the natural and chief business of the place, so that on entering the public rooms about noon, we found the professors in full practice;—the government of Prussia, doubtless, finds it necessary to connive at the magnitude of this evil in Aix, where the right of gaming has probably long been considered as the Magna Charta of its attraction and prosperity. There is something so repulsive to the feelings in beholding the routine of gaming carried on by daylight, that it seems surprising that those professionally concerned in it do not shut their windows and light their lamps. That “A bad day will still make a good night,” has been quoted as the phrase of a humourist; and it would be in better taste even thus to convert day into night, than to insult the light of the sun by the pursuit of such a corrupting occupation. The opera at Aix appeared to be reasonably good, but the season being in some measure over, the house was, on the evening of our visit, very thinly attended. I had the good

fortune during our brief sojourn in this town to make the acquaintance of an English gentleman, who had been some time resident, and whose mind was a perfect storehouse of historical knowledge, from the days of even Charlemagne down to the present time ; he very kindly took the trouble to illuminate my ignorance on several points connected with the ancient history of the place. Such conversation might almost be considered as realising the royal road to knowledge, so long supposed to be denied ; but it becomes a question whether it is quite right to allow ourselves thus to enjoy the fruit for which others have laboured through the musty volumes of antiquity.

The people of Aix may be characterised as being most superstitiously Catholic. On passing to the theatre one evening, for example, we observed by the way a small chapel lighted up and filled with people at their devotions ; the hour being an unusual one for such assemblings, I was induced to inquire the cause, when I found that it was a new *anti-cholera* chapel, which our guide, it seems, very devoutly believed to have conquered the disease, and charmed it away from the town. It is greatly to be lamented that such a state of gross superstition and ignorance should continue to exist in a civilised country, more especially as it might be in a considerable measure dispelled by the circulation of some such work as Mr. Combe's excellent book

“On the Constitution of Man,” wherein the fixed natural laws that influence human life are so philosophically explained. Until they shall be better instructed, it is scarcely to be hoped that so superstitious a people will be likely to address themselves to the true causes of cholera, such as filth, effluvia, intemperance, and bad food.

The country between Aix and Verviers is pretty and varied; in one part somewhat resembling the scenery of the canton of St. Gallen, and in other parts reminding me much of that of Derbyshire. Verviers is a flourishing manufacturing town, but contains nothing which can interest the general traveller. Beyond it, towards Spa, the scenery continued to increase in interest, and to its natural charms a worldly and wealthy character was occasionally communicated by the appearance of several extensive manufacturing establishments. Spa now contains only about 2,500 people, for in consequence of the number of watering-places which have latterly sprung up in Nassau and other parts of Germany, this ancient fountain of health has fallen into comparative oblivion. It is, I suppose, always disagreeable to human feelings to acknowledge any falling off in our self-importance, and it was on that account no doubt that the landlady of our comfortable hotel at Spa seemed to take peculiar pride as well as pleasure in repeatedly informing us of the number of persons that had

dined at her table on one favoured sunny day of the last season. The woman also who showed us the public rooms—rooms capable of holding many hundred persons with convenience—assured us with the same show of satisfaction, that so many as *fifty* had actually been present at one or two of the last season balls. She added, however, that cavaliers were extremely scarce ; from which I presumed to infer that Spa must be, in its season, a little paradise for our sex, and that gentlemen dancers can scarcely fail to be at a considerable premium ; while messieurs politely willing to lose their money to elderly ladies at whist must be beyond all price. The principal spring in this place, a cold chalybeate, is one of the most agreeable mineral waters I have tasted—always excepting that of the Seltzer spring when duly prepared with hock and sugar, in the orthodox proportions. Several of the few strangers who still haunt the public walks of Spa, lingering like “ the last roses of summer,” or the shades of departed gaiety, we perceived to be English ; and there is assuredly no spot on the Continent where the presence of such wealthy idlers can be felt as either more welcome, or more important. Our prospect from the crag which overlooks the town and commands a view of its neighbourhood was an extensive and agreeable one. In pointing from this hill to the distant forests, the valet-de-place who accompanied

us in our walk, dilated at considerable length and *con amore* on the pleasures of winter boar-hunting ; but from its general accompaniments of deep snow, and a temperature at zero, his glowing picture, however warm in its colouring, wanted the attraction of that other warmth, most congenial to delicate constitutions.

OCTOBER, 1836.

THE drive between Spa and Liege is rich in the variety of its scenery ; the Derbyshire character of which continued to prevail, with even increased beauty. While making this journey in the public diligence I was fortunate enough to meet with an intelligent German gentleman, resident in Belgium for commercial purposes, who kindly favoured me with much minute information regarding the various manufactures of the country ; and from his statements, as well as from other sources of information, Belgium would certainly appear to be next to England, having reference to the amount of her population, the most extensively manufacturing kingdom of Europe ; and it is even a question which might admit of discussion, whether, adopting the strict principle of proportion, she may not rival Britain herself. Between Spa and Liege we passed by a multitude of manufactories ;

and this latter town, with its neighbourhood, appears to combine, on an extensive scale, the varied operations of our Leeds, Manchester, and Birmingham. The population of Liege is estimated at 70,000, and they are as thoroughly Catholic as his Holiness the Pope could himself desire. One of our countrymen, Mr. Cockerell, appears to be considered the manufacturing Cræsus of these parts, and his name is that which is generally mentioned by the obsequious *valets-de-place*, when it is proposed to gratify the *amor patriæ* of inquiring English travellers. This gentleman's manufacturing operations were, I believe, commenced during the war, under the auspices of Napoleon, and he has continued them with much spirit and success ever since; so that, probably, few countries have ever been more indebted to any commercial individual than Belgium to Mr. C. Indeed, but for the spirit infused by his example, and the mechanical intelligence carried with him from England, at a time when such information had not yet extended beyond the limits of our own country, it is not improbable that Belgium might still have lingered behind in industry, notwithstanding the advantages she enjoys in an abundant supply of coal and iron, as well as a central position, communicating with the Rhine on one side, and opening to the ocean on the other. Mr. C. is interested in various descriptions

of manufacturing industry, viz., those of cotton, iron, and steam engines; and has extended the latter branch of his business even as far as Berlin. It would appear as though manufacturing and commercial industry flourished among the various nations of the world somewhat in proportion to the measure of political freedom which they enjoy; and, in confirmation of this assertion, we find that England, France, America, Switzerland, Belgium, and Saxony, are incomparably superior in these respects to other countries which possess less liberal political institutions. The river Meuse flows through the town of Liege; and a very handsome bridge, which is in process of erection over it, was pointed out to us as having already fallen four times before completion, from which it might be quaintly inferred that the *arch-fiend* must have some peculiar antipathy to any measure for facilitating the passage of the Meuse. Several of the churches of Liege, as well as some districts of the town, present an ancient aspect; and the streets, in the old quarter, are narrow, and not particularly clean, being lined with high and gloomy houses; so that what with the addition of manufacturing smoke, confusion, and care-worn countenances, the feeling of disagreeableness was sufficiently complete. We found the Museum of Natural History attached to the University extensive and more than usually rich in skeletons and fossil remains; behind it

also is a respectable botanical garden, where, if city smoke may in any way contribute to the preservation of plants, the various vegetable families are particularly well cared for.

The manufacturing interests here, as well as elsewhere, are at present very flourishing, but they have been frequently subjected, in time past, to the same ebbs and flows of prosperity as in England. At present there is, of course, little distress here, wages being high, and the operatives fully employed; but our *valet-de-place* gave a very distressing picture of their situation at times when commercial difficulties have unfortunately been prevalent. These violent fluctuations, so frequent in manufacturing communities, are so injurious to the health and happiness of the working classes, that it would seem desirable, by any means (even a special law) to compel them to lay by a certain portion of their earnings during prosperity, with a view to its being applied for their benefit when the evil days of stagnation arrive.

Belgium now manufactures so much more than her population requires, that her chief present difficulty lies in finding markets for the excess of her industrial productions; this she does, to a certain extent, in America, Spain, and the Mediterranean, as well as by the clandestine introduction of her manufactures into France and Germany. The extensive existence of this last mentioned contraband inter-

course appears to be sufficiently proved by the fact of the official imports of Belgium being about double the amount of her exports ; while the true balance of trade is doubtless on the other side ; for the secret exporters of Belgian manufactures, and the canine assistants they employ in this traffic, with a feeling of modesty peculiar to their vocation, are too *well-bred* to disturb the slumbers of the custom-house officers on the French and German frontiers, by a nocturnal application to have their wares examined and registered. Belgium has long hoped that France would consent to some liberal arrangements, to the effect of admitting her manufactures on moderate duties ; but to hope for liberality from the French Government on any commercial subject is the most visionary of expectations, as the Belgians will no doubt discover in due time. On the other hand, Belgium is suffering from the operation of the Prussian Commercial League, which nearly excludes her from open intercourse with the markets of Germany. An opinion seems, however, to be entertained that she would be readily admitted as a member of that commercial confederation ; and, if the opinion is well grounded, there can be no doubt that such a step would be, to her, full of advantages, possessing as she does much greater manufacturing facilities than any of the states which now form it. If, however, there are,

as is generally believed, political objects embraced by that treaty, her present connexion with France may seem to require a sacrifice of commercial advantages for political protection; nevertheless, I humbly conceive that the best safeguard of her independence might be found in a friendly commercial alliance with the powers of Germany.

The drive from Liege to Namur, along the banks of the Meuse, has at least a sufficiency of interest to induce travellers to give a preference to this route in passing from Aix-la-Chapelle to Brussels. Namur has an aspect moderately agreeable, its manufactories not being so numerous as to taint the whole atmosphere with smoke, or to crowd the streets with sallow artisans. The principal church here is, as usual, the chief architectural ornament of the town, unless it may be permitted us to bring into competition with it its high and ancient strong-hold, the citadel. On climbing up to this place of strength, our guide did not scruple to assure me that it was stronger than Gibraltar, and could not possibly be taken. Happening to know nothing of these fortifications, excepting through the ill-remembered descriptions of my uncle Toby, I took the liberty to inquire whether they ever *had* been taken, and our conductor was compelled to confess that they had surrendered to Louis XIV. ; adding, however, that many millions of florins had *since* then been expended in improvements, which

were considered to have rendered the fortress now utterly impregnable. Be that as it may, the view from a position so commanding, embracing a large portion of the valley of the Meuse, is, apart from the bastions and counterscarps which more immediately surround the spectator, well worthy of being beheld. The theatre here was, the other evening, more densely crowded than might have been expected in a town whose population does not exceed 20,000 ; but the noisy behaviour of the company formed an extreme contrast to the decorous and quiet manner observable throughout Germany, where the lowest appear to vie with the highest in propriety of demeanour : in fact, in this respect, the manners exhibited in the theatre of Namur rather resembled those characterising the frequenters of the minor playhouses of England.

One of my informants stated, that in Belgium English operatives are frequently employed in working the coal and iron mines of the country, on account of the greater quantity of labour they perform, as well as the effect which the example of their superior industry is found to produce on the energies of the natives. Indeed, the labouring classes of England and those of the Continent appear to be animated by very opposite principles in this point of conduct : the pride of the former, apparently, consisting in going through the greatest possible quantity of labour ; that of the latter in

performing the least that is compatible with an avoidance of censure.

A monument has been erected at Namur to the memory of those who fell in fighting to accomplish the revolution of 1830, and on it *Les braves Belges* are of course extravagantly lauded. Probably the most ready method of making a people either brave or virtuous, is to flatter their vanity by assuming that they already possess these qualities; and this policy would appear to have been acted on in Belgium, for here, while it might have seemed hopeless to derive a reputation for valour from actual achievements, it was comparatively easy to maintain one which is already claimed as a national characteristic.

Westward of Namur the country becomes agriculturally rich, and begins to undulate in an agreeable manner; but hedges have, much to our regret, again nearly disappeared from the landscape.—The field of Waterloo may be considered, even at this distance of time, sufficiently interesting to merit a second visit from a native of England, for, if I may judge from the evidence furnished by my own feelings, it is in vain even to hope to conquer the spirit of nationality, which, under certain circumstances, is liable to return, with more or less force. We recently, for example, passed by Leipsic and several other important battle-fields without even subjecting ourselves to

the trouble of walking over the ground ; but here a different feeling arose, and, assisted by the best of guides, Sergeant Major Cotton (a Waterloo man), we deliberately traversed the positions, and had the various points of attack and defence pointed out to us. The natural undulations of the ground, as well as the happy choice of position made by the duke of Wellington, render this field, however, a more than usually interesting one, exclusive of national feeling. His Grace is reported to feel much dissatisfied with the immense pyramid of earth which the king of Holland has caused to be heaped up in honour of Dutch and Belgian heroism; and indeed the memorials of the battle appear, ludicrously enough, to be altogether in an inverse ratio to the merits of the parties engaged in it, the English soldiery having no monument whatever, and the Prussians as well as the Brunswickers, very modest ones, while the ill-deserved emblematic lion of Nassau presumes to soar 200 feet high. A nation may, no doubt, consist of very good citizens, without possessing the bravest of soldiers, and the highest English military authority is understood to regard both the Dutch and Belgians in this light, as was quaintly proved by the remark attributed to him in allusion to the fighting which occurred between them in 1830, " If the Belgians cannot beat the Dutch, who the Devil can they beat ?" It is difficult to avoid regretting that our

victory of 1815 had not already assumed a decisive aspect before the Prussian troops arrived on the field ; a commander who had considered his own glory rather than the safety of the world, might, no doubt, with every reasonable prospect of success have commenced offensive operations sooner, and in that manner probably have gained a victory over the enemy without assistance ; but his Grace wisely preferred the surer game, and Europe has since largely reaped the fruits of it. The fury of the French assaults, and the firmness of British resistance, on that occasion, can perhaps scarcely receive a more forcible illustration than in two lines, which memory has happened to suggest, from Ossian :—" As a thousand waves roll on a rock, so Swarran's host came on ; and as a rock receives a thousand waves, so Innesphail met Swarran." The pursuit of the French by the Prussians is reported to have been carried on with an intense feeling of vengeance, so that no quarter was shown them ; and if the guide-book, with which we were furnished at the village inn, speaks correctly, so panic-struck were Napoleon's old *militaires*, that the approach of even a few of Blücher's soldiers was sufficient to put to more disordered flight five times their number ; in this respect we find the military conduct of the French of modern times affording a singular confirmation of the account given of their ancestors, the Gauls, nearly

two thousand years ago, viz., that in the assault they were more than men, but in defeat less than women. There are, no doubt, to be found on the Continent, two or three modern battle-fields, where still greater slaughter has been committed, but, certainly, none so productive of great immediate results, and, as certainly, none so saturated with British blood—"How that red rain hath made the harvest grow!" Frederick the Great is stated to have frequently remarked, with more wit than piety, that Providence always decided battles in favour of the party having the greatest number of cannon in the field—doubtless a good general rule, but one which did not hold on this occasion, for the French appear to have had the advantage of the duke in their artillery, not less than in numerical strength.

As the chivalrous Marquis of Anglesea has still one leg left, it is to be regretted that he does not employ it in kicking down the monument which bad taste has erected on this field to the other. Mrs. Trollope's remarks on this subject appear very just; and it seems especially wrong that a *right* leg should be commemorated by such a *gaucherie* in taste. To me, however, (concluding that the monument is approved of by the gallant General,) it appears to breathe the air of English exclusiveness, and to say, as plainly as words could have done—"The leg of a noble marquis is more

worthy of a monument than the entire mortal remains of thousands of brave but humble men." You might, I think, search the whole Continent without finding another spot, where the shattered limb of any living soldier has been so distinguished. From the rather superabundant pride which our countrymen frequently exhibit in reference to Waterloo, the continental cavillers are too apt to allege, that it would appear as though the whole military glory of our nation was concentrated in that one victory. It was, you will admit, an especially singular coincidence that four former residents in Sierra Leone, that "white man's grave," should this morning have met by accident as mutual acquaintances on the charnel field of Waterloo. Such a rencontre, nevertheless, actually occurred to us while discussing our breakfast and conning over the description of the battle, to the infinite surprise of all parties. We traversed the field together; and death being, in such a locality, the most natural subject for contemplation, I felt somewhat disposed, from a recollection of tropical mortality, to admit the reasonableness of Napoleon's assertion, that the unhealthy colonies of England had cost more human life than all his numerous victories.

Brussels, with its 100,000 people, may be considered as having at all times a sufficiency of bustle and public amusement to satisfy persons who are not

very unreasonable in their demands for pleasure ; and if the rule to judge of the agreeableness of a place by the number of English residents in it be correct, the capital of Belgium must be highly attractive ; for there are frequently from three to four thousand of our compatriots resident here—probably the greatest number to be found in any single city of the Continent, Paris excepted. The court end of Brussels stands high, and is not only perfectly clean, but positively elegant, while the low town is in all respects quite the reverse ; and a remarkable illustration of the comparative healthfulness of the two quarters consequent on this state of things, occurred some years since during the prevalence of cholera. In the low town, for example, where there are canals, stagnant waters, and all sorts of abominations, 1500 persons fell victims to the malarious disease within a few weeks of hot weather, while in the clean and elevated part of the city it is stated that not a single family suffered from it*.

* I recollect to have recently heard a commercial gentleman, who resided at Riga, when this disease first appeared there some years since, explain its causes, as appears to me, very forcibly. Riga is, it seems, surrounded by a marsh, and, at the commencement of summer, the sun, acting on its mud, produced a malarious exhalation, causing cholera. The disease ran its course for some weeks, carrying off great numbers, but the marsh at length became dry, as summer advanced, and the disorder entirely ceased. A few weeks later the great annual fair took place there, and much dissipation prevailed while it lasted, in consequence of which cholera

The interior of the cathedral of Brussels is peculiarly noble, and its carved oak pulpit, by Verbruggen, curiously beautiful; but some of the fancy figures which adorn it, such as monkeys represented in the act of playing with cocoa-nuts in the garden of Eden, are certainly not the most appropriate ornaments that might have been conceived for the interior of a sacred edifice.

The annual Belgian exhibition of modern pictures is at present open, and several of its historical subjects, as well as the portraits, cattle-pieces, and domestic groups, appear honourable to the state of national art. The finish and expression of a few small domestic pictures by Brias in particular, seem to rival that of some of the old Dutch masters; and another artist, who has depicted a flock of wolves in the act of attacking a convoy of horses, has certainly succeeded in communicating to them an expression sufficiently ravenous.

It is difficult, even for persons resident here, to ascertain with accuracy the true state of political opinion, and of course much more so for a transitory visitor; but an impression seems to prevail that all the younger members of society, as well as the commercial classes generally, are very de-

again appeared, and proved nearly as fatal as before, but ceased when dissipation ended; thus showing two distinct choleras, one from malaria, and one from dissipation, each ceasing with its respective cause.

cidedly in favour of the present settlement of state affairs, while a few of the old noblesse, and persons who have been under personal obligations to the house of Nassau, may still look forward with a fading ray of hope to the succession of the Prince of Orange. Holland having had no natural or political claim upon Belgium, at the termination of the last war, the Congress of that period could only have annexed it as a matter of pure favour to the Dutch royal family. After an experiment of about sixteen years, it was sufficiently proved that the king of Holland had failed either to conciliate, or to treat with reasonable impartiality, his new subjects; having therefore, long been abandoned by Austria, and having strictly no legitimate sovereign, the representatives of the kingdom have chosen one whose dynasty may, I trust, be more permanent. King Leopold has, therefore, even on Holy Alliance principles, as legitimate a claim to the throne he has been called to fill as any prince of the house of Nassau possessed, even had one of them been chosen, while, from his election by a large majority of the legislative body, he is surrounded by the authority which French example has rendered omnipotent.

A very ridiculous and altogether unfounded calumny against England appears to have been industriously propagated by the spleen of the Dutch party in Belgium, viz. that her jealousy of the

manufacturing prosperity of that country, under the old *régime*, induced her to foment the revolution of 1830, and to encourage a new political settlement, which might operate as a check to the current of that prosperity. Of course, no persons of intelligence, or familiar with the straightforward nature of English diplomacy, could credit such an invention; yet has it made a considerable impression on the vulgar mind here—an impression which even the fact of the manufacturing interests of the kingdom having since rapidly increased in prosperity, has not been able to efface. The only people who appear self-honest enough to believe in, or candid enough to acknowledge the equitable policy of England, are the Americans; for, when British mediation was recently offered to arrange their misunderstanding with France, the venerable President stated that he appreciated the proffered service the more highly, inasmuch as such a war would have been greatly favourable to British commercial interests. I observe a specimen of French political spleen *à-la-hollandaise*, at this moment going the round of the public journals, viz., that the rumoured mediation of the British cabinet in arranging their misunderstanding with Switzerland, is founded on a prospective influence sought to be obtained by our government over that of the cantons. What England has to expect from Switzerland, the French politicians have not

condescended to point out, unless indeed it may be permission for 10,000 or 20,000 British gentry to travel annually through that country, scattering wealth and diffusing intelligence wherever they go. Politically, England has nothing to ask from Switzerland; and, commercially, the cantons receive almost nothing from her, while she offers an extensive market for many of their ingenious productions.

But to return:—Belgium is now flourishing in her manufacturing interests beyond all precedent; there are however two towns, Ghent and Antwerp, which, from obstinacy, that is to say, from a characteristic feeling in favour of a Dutch connexion, appear unwilling to participate in the general prosperity—*Tant mieux pour les autres*. A handsome monument is now in course of preparation, in the square where the remains of the 1200 Belgians are interred, who fell in accomplishing the revolution of 1830. Concerning this period of danger and excitement, an interesting anecdote is related of the attachment of a little dog, which, having sought for and at length discovered its master's dead body near the Chamber of Deputies, could not be prevailed on to quit the spot; so that a suitable domicile was there provided for its accommodation, where little *Fidèle* has remained ever since.—Even at this distance of time, it is painful to witness, in one of the finest quarters, so

many marks of the reckless destruction inflicted on this city by the ill-advised attack of the Dutch troops under Prince Frederick—an attack which produced much needless misery, and effectually alienated the feelings of a large portion of the inhabitants of Brussels from his family. We were permitted to skate in list slippers over the well-waxed floors of the former residence of the Prince of Orange, which is a handsome edifice; but the beautiful Flemish pictures, which formed its chief attraction at the date of my last visit, are now, for some unknown cause, (probably a Dutch remonstrance,) shut up from the vulgar gaze.

For many years after the establishment of peace, it was frequently remarked that English travellers might be readily known in any city of the Continent by their being uniformly better dressed than the native inhabitants; but such is certainly no longer the general rule, at least not in this quarter. Indeed, at present the Belgian beaux and belles who promenade themselves in the neighbourhood of the Park, might appear with equal advantage either in Regent Street or on the Boulevards of Paris. Between theatres and balls, picture galleries, mechanical exhibitions, and daily promenades to military music, the people of this city appear, on the whole, abundantly supplied with a variety of amusements to divert the tedium of unoccupied existence.

The sanguine-minded people of Brussels seem to anticipate much benefit from the numerous railways that have recently been projected to Cologne, Ostend, Paris, &c. A part of the first is, I believe, now in progress, and among its numerous advantages, will afford to English travellers a desirable means of reaching the beauties of the Rhine, without having to encounter the lengthened sea voyage to Rotterdam, as well as a tedious sail up the lower division of that river, destitute as it is of any compensating objects of interest; Belgium has thus the immediate prospect of being converted into a sort of *gridiron* of railways, as thoroughly as even England herself.

You are no doubt perfectly aware of the excellent agricultural condition of this country, as compared with any other district of the Continent, and that its superiority in this department of industry is of long standing; for Napoleon, who once presumed to send a Professor from Paris to teach the Flemish a better system of agriculture, was told by that functionary on his return home, that he had *taken* a lesson—not given one. Wool is at present in so much demand for the manufactures of Belgium, that the attention of agriculturists in this quarter has latterly been more than usually directed towards the increase of their flocks. The manufacture of beet-root sugar is also at present attracting considerable commercial and agri-

cultural speculation ; many establishments for this purpose being in the course of erection in various quarters of the country, and in the immediate neighbourhood of Waterloo we observed one of these on a gigantic scale, nearly completed.

On entering Belgium by her eastern or German frontier, it was quite a relief to us to find French the language generally in use. In Brussels, however, and throughout all the western district of the kingdom, Flemish is still spoken by the lower orders; and though this is no doubt one of those rude and partially spoken languages which is doomed to perish within the century, its being in use is not in the meantime less annoying to travellers who do not understand it. There are many of these inconvenient local languages which embarrass and obstruct a traveller in his progress through the Continent—languages which the respective governments might readily extirpate within a certain period, by causing either pure French or pure German to be alone taught in the public schools. The Bohemian and Hungarian languages, as well as the *patois* of the Tyrol, and some others, are of the description alluded to. At home also, it appears to me equally desirable that the Welsh, Irish, and Gaelic dialects should become eradicated, as it seems impossible thoroughly to civilize a people while they continue to speak a barbarous language, comparatively incapable of communicating refined

ideas. Rudeness, ignorance, and traditional superstition, being necessarily bound up with the idiom of such a language, these can only be effectually destroyed with it; in addition to which, such partial languages are likewise full of inconvenience, since even our British mountaineers are so ignorant of English, as to resemble foreigners in their own country, and are unfitted by that ignorance for many of its most useful occupations. Adopting an utilitarian philosophy on this point, I am much disposed to consider every such language destroyed as so much gained to the cause of civilization and general convenience. Some mistaken but amiable philologists, therefore, who are laboriously endeavouring to perpetuate these rude vehicles of uncivilized thought, by the publication of grammars, treatises, and dictionaries, with a view to hand a knowledge of them down to remote ages, may, on this principle, be considered as so many obstructers of human improvement. The facility with which the Russians, Poles, and Germans, are reported to acquire the languages of other countries, as contrasted with natives of England or France, is, I humbly conceive, to be accounted for by the extreme difficulty of their own native dialects, after having acquired which, all others must prove comparatively easy; so that they may, not unreasonably, be considered somewhat in the position of a pupil in music, who, having been taught all

the most difficult divisions at an early period of his instruction, would naturally find the remainder comparatively easy.

The natives of Belgium are not usually considered as being largely indebted to nature for personal advantages ; and in Brussels, a stranger would, perhaps, be generally correct, who concluded that the greater part of all the best-looking persons he encountered were either English, French, or Germans.

OCTOBER, 1836.

The railway from Brussels to Antwerp is twenty-six miles in length, and the journey usually occupies above an hour and a quarter. It is much travelled on, and, in addition to its convenience to the Belgian community at large, is rapidly proving fruitful in commercial advantages to both the principal towns which it is the means of more closely connecting. The division from Brussels to Malines has already been open three years, but the part which connects that town with Antwerp was only completed during the last season. In the course of the five months of May, June, July, August, and September last, 531,000 travellers are announced in the official returns as having passed by it, making an average of 3470 per day ; and it is hence calculated that, in the course of a few years

the pecuniary returns from this work will repay to the Belgian government the total expense of its formation. Belgium being the most densely peopled country of Europe, is certainly from that circumstance, as well as from its general levelness and manufacturing industry, a region peculiarly favourable for railways—those new and very efficient accessories to civilization as well as commerce.

We found Antwerp a very handsome old town, most conveniently situated on the river Scheldt, and in the age of Spanish glory and Belgian subjection, it is said to have contained 200,000 people; but the population does not now much exceed 65,000—the number having been considerably diminished since the revolution of 1830 by the removal of many of the principal merchants to Rotterdam, with their dependants, their capital, and their ships. It would, however, be unreasonable to suppose that such a desertion from political motives alone, can permanently injure the trade of Antwerp, which is the natural outlet for the manufactures of this kingdom, as well as the only good dépôt of importation for foreign productions. Wealth, ships, and mercantile connexion may certainly for a time be thus diminished; but such a field for enterprise can hardly fail to attract sufficient capital from other countries, and the young merchants of Antwerp will no doubt soon feel the benefit which the political *Orange* merchants of Holland have

rendered them by retiring from the Belgian field of commerce.

The magnificent docks here were formed by the fiat of that practical magician, Napoleon, while his power was at its zenith, and the place was intended by him to have been equally great in commerce and in the *matériel* for naval warfare. There happen, unfortunately, at this moment to be in all scarcely twenty vessels in these beautiful docks, but the commercial men of this quarter may surely comfort themselves with a well-grounded expectation of the speedy restoration of more prosperous times. The streets of this city have a spacious and rather deserted aspect; its churches are peculiarly rich, both as to architectural ornaments and pictorial treasures, as may be conceived from one example which I shall adduce—that of St. Jacques, which exhibits no fewer than twenty-two altars and eighteen chapels, each composed of a different description of marble; the same church also contains some interesting pictures by Rubens as well as other artists of eminence. On entering the ground which is attached to the Dominican church here, our course lay, for some way, through a curious *fac-simile* imitation of Mount Calvary, representing the crucifixion, in addition to which there are also various other scenes from sacred history; and on advancing to its termination we found ourselves before a very spirited representa-

tion of the pains of purgatory itself. Our catholic conductor seeing that this last had attracted particular attention, remarked to me with an air which I interpreted as indicative of some feeling of superiority on his part, "*Vous messieurs les protestants n'avez pas de purgatoire.*" The cathedral of Antwerp is scarcely less celebrated for the richness and height of its spire than for containing Rubens's chef-d'œuvre—the Descent from the Cross. This picture, like all others of the same subject, is necessarily harrowing to the feelings, as bringing the most agonizing part of our heavenly faith before the mind with almost the painful vividness of a reality. The white sheet, crimson-stained with the sacred blood, is, above all, beautifully represented, and viewed as a whole, the feelings of a beholder can scarcely fail to be affected by this picture to an extent surpassing the measure of sympathy usually excited by even the higher achievements of the fine arts. Several more pictures by Rubens as well as other artists adorn the cold walls of the cathedral; but that which certainly afforded to my untutored taste the highest pleasure was the transcendently benignant expression of a Christ's Head by Van Diepenbeck. Antwerp, from having long been the residence of Rubens, naturally abounds more in his works, considering the total extent of its pictorial treasures, than any other dépôt of the fine arts; and the public gallery

exhibits several of his most celebrated productions. Of these, the Crucifixion of Christ between the two Malefactors is no doubt the most powerful; but a Madonna and Child, as well as the Virgin instructed by St. Anne, may be characterized as being more pleasing performances, and as approaching nearer to the refinement and delicacy of the Italian school; consequently differing very materially from the usual manner of Rubens. It would, I conceive, prove a task of considerable difficulty for the unqualified admirers of this painter to reconcile to good taste and correct feeling the circumstance of many of his Madonnas, and other sacred female characters, being, as is admitted, portraits of his wives and mistresses; for, supposing it even possible to have forgiven such an indelicacy, had his domestic attractions been of the highest order, and such as are occasionally to be met gracing this nether world even in Belgium, yet the originals in this case appear to have been without exception coarse, Flemish and fleshy, possessing, in short, no point for refined admiration. The gallery also boasts some much-esteemed works by Van Dyck, &c., &c., not forgetting what appeared to me an excellent modern picture representing, with powerful effect, the very catholic death-bed scene of Rubens himself. Some productions of Quentin Matsys, who is probably the only blacksmith that ever immortalised himself on canvas, are not unworthy

of attention, though perhaps exhibiting more of the hardness of his first vocation than is altogether desirable. The tender flame of love, it appears, miraculously converted this humble knight of the anvil into an eminent painter; for, having addressed the daughter of Floris, an artist of Antwerp, and being rejected by her father on account of his Vulcan-like profession, he straightway proceeded to Rome, where, having acquired the secrets of painting by study and application, he brought back with him to Belgium productions which at once entitled him to assume a respectable place among the aristocrats of the art. Having thus ennobled himself, the lady was readily won; but I fear the prize being obtained, Matsys must have become indolent in his new vocation, since there are so exceedingly few of his pictures to be met with—of these, the *Misers*, at Windsor, seems generally to be esteemed as one of the most favourable specimens. It is not altogether impossible that Sir Walter Scott may have had the history of Matsys in view when, in the “Fair Maid of Perth,” he imbues the blacksmith, Harry Wynd, with a love worthy of a cavalier, “*wax* to receive, and marble to retain.”

The citadel of Antwerp possesses an interest peculiar to itself, as having endured a lengthened siege during the general reign of peace in Europe, and a siege without a war is a modern anomaly which

only Dutch obstinacy, or indifferent diplomacy, can explain. It being perfectly well known to the King of Holland, as well as to all Europe, that the citadel could not fail to be taken by the amount of force brought against it, why it should therefore have been defended to the last hour, is a question which it would require considerable ingenuity to resolve. Indeed, as appears, it was only after the French commander had secured a way for his troops to reach the glacis, and had sent General Chassée a message he intended to dine that day with his army in the citadel, that the place was surrendered up. If I recollect the numbers correctly, seventy or eighty thousand shot and shell were stated by our conductor to have been thrown into the citadel from the French trenches, by which means all the interior buildings were of course reduced into heaps of rubbish, and none of them have as yet been rebuilt.

A few passing remarks on the agriculture of Germany cannot, I imagine, be unwelcome to one who feels so warm an interest in that subject as yourself, and who has so well earned the honours due to useful improvement, by fertilizing the waste of a remote district, and causing it to smile like a garden.

Among the Germans, though a certain acquaintance with literature, theoretical philosophy, and the sciences, may be more generally diffused among

the lower classes than with us, yet practical knowledge, as exemplified in their agriculture, their manufactures, and many of their domestic and travelling arrangements, appears to be at present much in arrear of the English standard in those matters. Throughout Germany, as in France, no farm-houses are to be seen scattered among and lending cheerfulness to the fields, the people being all congregated in villages, from which the distance to their spots of daily occupation must frequently be very considerable. Such a system has, of course, its social advantages, but is full of agricultural inconvenience ; and whether it may have originated in a desire for friendly intercourse, or in the insecurity which, even within the last century, might have attended detached residences in Germany, I could not very satisfactorily ascertain. The want, also, of ornamentally scattered trees, such as the whole surface of England is dotted over with, and more especially the absence of hedges, must be considered an offence equally against the laws of taste and of good agriculture. A practical evil, which appears to me to arise from the unscientific and unornamental habits of German agriculture alluded to, is, that it prevents the pursuit from forming an agreeable occupation or amusement for gentlemen ; and it is, of course, by them that the results of such experiments as involve considerable expense must be proved, before the

less wealthy part of the community can proceed to act on them. This absence of gentleman farmers in Germany appears, therefore, both a cause and a consequence of the present state of agricultural backwardness, and the healthful influence which in England a useful residence in the country during six months of the year yields to the *physique* as well as the *morale* of our gentry, is there comparatively unknown. It may, no doubt, be felt as somewhat *triste* by persons accustomed to the excitement of cities, to withdraw to the monotony of rural life ; but assuredly such gentlemen of Germany as feel themselves animated by a desire to benefit their country, can hardly do so more effectually than by setting the example of deserting her operas, and devoting themselves to the pursuits of agriculture in her fields. The application of more scientific principles to agriculture in Britain, will no doubt continue yearly to increase, but I humbly conceive that were even the system now in use with us generally practised in Germany, the soil of that country might yield at least double the quantity of produce which it now does.

Continental travelling embraces so great a variety of pleasures, commencing with activity and change of air for the benefit of health ; and offering an ever-changing field for observation and reflection, that it would perhaps be difficult to conceive any more delightful combination of terrestrial enjoyments.

It is therefore scarcely to be wondered at that, from a refined and wealthy nation such as England, nearly 150,000 roamers are generally to be found scattered through the various states of the Continent, to whom travelling yields health and recreation abundantly, as well as a certain measure of acquaintance with the leading characteristics of other people. Another of its advantages, and perhaps not the least wonderful, is the impression it produces on the mind, by causing time to be viewed through such a varied and magnifying medium as to create an apparent increase of existence; for three months, well employed in this manner, actually appear, when viewed retrospectively, as lengthened out into several times their natural extent. So much having been seen, felt, admired, and learned, in a brief period, one feels strongly disposed to doubt the possibility of such a concentration of impressions; thus confirming a theory with which you are no doubt familiar, that the mind naturally estimates time chiefly by the number or succession of ideas and events.

There is, however, another view to be taken of continental travelling, which it is not altogether so agreeable for one's patriotism to remember, and that is the inconceivable amount of money thus scattered abroad, which, if distributed at home, would tend to the relief of distress, and to the improvement, in a thousand different ways, of our

own country and our own people. The national loss thus sustained is, perhaps, not generally estimated at its full amount ; for reckoning the medium number of English residents and travellers abroad at 125,000, which is the usual calculation, and taking £150 as the average expenditure of each, it will amount to the enormous sum of above eighteen millions and a half sterling annually.

To supply such a drain, the steam-engines of Birmingham and Manchester must needs move without ceasing ; for whether we regard the incomes thus expended as derived from land, manufactures, capital, or the government annuities, still steam may be considered, to a very considerable extent, as the paymaster-general ; and it is in this manner that our neighbours of the Continent extract from England the gains of her superior mechanical industry. Should, however, the manufactures of the Continent continue to increase, as they have recently done, it must yearly become more difficult for England to supply such an annual drain of money. According to the above estimate, therefore, the money which has been expended by English residents and travellers abroad during twenty-two years of peace, will have amounted to the enormous sum of four hundred millions sterling—a sum sufficient to have paid off more than one-half of our national debt !

German manners seldom fail to make an agree-

able impression on strangers; and perhaps that which is calculated to strike an English traveller most forcibly is the comparative absence of *hauteur* in the bearing of both sexes, while at the same time no deficiency exists in either delicacy; elegance, or self-possession.

Conventional politeness may possibly have established for itself a more systematic code of laws in France and England than is to be found in Germany; but that true and natural politeness which respects and sympathises with the feelings of all classes, probably no where exists in a more pleasing state than among this people. Hence it follows that the amalgamation of the different classes of society is a more practicable matter in that country than elsewhere, as the usual obstacles of pride, on the one hand, and rudeness on the other, do not exist in the same degree of force. Germany thus affords a strong contrast to the state of social intercourse in England, where, for example in London, the different sets of society are nearly as numerous as the squares—these sets being again sub-divided by shades of distinction, till comparatively few families can associate with feelings of comfortable equality. Those who boast aristocratic blood are, of course, disposed to be exclusives on that account—those who have carriages and country-seats carry themselves higher than those who have none—and the inmates of

establishments with men-servants can scarcely condescend to associate on familiar terms with others where the doors are opened by female domestics. It is no doubt this absurd division of society into classes, arising from no deficiency in refinement, but merely from an accidental difference in respect of fortune or birth, which causes English travellers abroad to keep so peculiarly aloof from one another, to the infinite amusement of the native gentry ; who facetiously remark, that no sooner do our islanders recognise each other as compatriots in the public room of a foreign hotel, than they station themselves at opposite windows, and studiously avoid any intercourse beyond the exchange of a few unamiable glances, apparently directed to the discovery of each other's position of life. There now appears some reason, however, to believe that this habit having been made the subject of so much ridicule abroad, some of our travellers have adopted a new system of tactics, and we recently met with several instances of persons, evidently ranking many sets above ourselves, who frankly communicated various interesting particulars of their travels in Norway, Sweden, Russia, Turkey, and Egypt. Exclusive of the social satisfaction which such occasional intercourse with one's countrymen affords in a foreign land, much may be thus learned by a liberal interchange of information ; and perhaps the best rule a traveller can follow in this respect

is always to offer an opening for conversation, which will probably seldom be entirely declined.

The German language appears so difficult of acquisition, both as respects its articulation and the vastness of its vocabulary, that it would seem hopeless for any person, not eminently endowed with the gift of tongues, coupled with much perseverance, to attempt it. Indeed an obstacle unfortunately occurs at the very threshold of its study, which is peculiar to this language, viz., the antiquated and indistinct form of the German character of letter in use, and probably as much time would be necessary to overcome this A B C difficulty, as might suffice for the positive acquirement of an available knowledge of one of the more easy languages. As the greater proportion of the German people can read the usual Italian character, and most of them also write it, why they should still continue the use of one so much less distinct, and which has been long abandoned by all the rest of Europe, it is not very easy to conjecture. From this cause it no doubt arises that considering the great annual concourse of English travellers to the cities and baths of Germany, the number of those who become proficient in its language, appears small; indeed its guttural pronunciation is found to be peculiarly difficult to English organs of speech, though for your comfort I may remark that it is said to be more readily

acquired by the natives of North Britain, and this facility, perhaps, somewhat increases in proportion to the broadness of their native accents.

Though a considerable number of the states of Germany have obtained representative chambers, yet, in practice, these are as yet quite inefficient, being checked, in all matters involving any extension of liberty or bearing on the general principles of government, by the Germanic confederation, over which the larger states (Prussia in particular) exercise a domineering influence. There is certainly no people in whose hands the greatest reasonable extent of constitutional liberty might more safely be deposited than the Germans, pre-eminent as they are for intelligence, as well as for the qualities of circumspection and deliberation ; while institutions, really free, would probably tend to create that energy in the national character, which, as compared with England, France, or other constitutional countries, seems at present to be wanting. It is, however, no more than justice towards Prussia to state, that his present majesty's government is acknowledged, even by the most zealous constitution-seeking Germans, to be one of the best of an absolute character which has ever existed ; while even that of much-reviled Austria is universally considered mild and paternal towards all her German dominions.

It appears to me that the geographical map-

makers of the Continent have united themselves with the great governments in an endeavour to cover with oblivion all the ancient landmarks which formerly divided Europe into its separate kingdoms. Austria is, accordingly, on this obliterating principle, encircled by a vast outline of yellow, and Prussia by almost as vast an outline of blue; so that the inquisitive traveller must endeavour to discover from other sources than those maps whether, at any particular town, he chances to be within the territorial limits which, in times past, defined the extinct states of Bohemia or Moravia, Hungary or Poland.

I have recently met with many Germans who have alleged that it is the exclusion of their corn and timber by England which has led to the prohibition (as it may almost be considered) of the use of our manufactures in their country. I confess, however, that I am much disposed to consider Prussian ambition to have been the leading element in the recent treaty; but this is a point which it is in the power of our government to ascertain at any moment, by proposing the admission of foreign timber and grain into England at moderate duties, on condition that the rates on British manufactures should be placed on a more favourable footing in Germany. This condition, if acceded to, would undoubtedly communicate a considerable impulse to manufacturing operations in Britain; and our ex-

chequer might, probably, benefit by it to the extent of two or three millions of annual corn duty, while the price of the chief article of subsistence would be kept free from any considerable fluctuation. As our law now stands, when wheat rises to near 80s., so as to become admissible at 1s. per quarter duty, the country is immediately drained of gold to pay for that which, under a system of mutual exchange or true reciprocity, should be paid for in manufactures; the British exchequer receives no benefit, and the relinquishment of the duty of 8s. or 10s. per quarter, which might be regularly received on grain, is, in effect, during years of scarcity, so much bonus offered to the foreign grower, who, on such occasions, acts the extortioner, and does not fail to receive for his produce double its ordinary price: thus also benefiting to the amount of such reasonable duty as our government, under such circumstances, needlessly abandons. I do not conceive it paradoxical to suppose that during the most unfavourable seasons England might receive from the Continent an equal quantity of grain at a 10s. rate of duty, as she now does at 1s. The difference being that the foreign grower now receives during a period of scarcity, 9s. more in price than he would in that case do, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer so much less in duty; the consumer deriving no benefit whatever from the lowness of the impost. Besides any fixed

duty that might be thus imposed on the regular importation of corn, the British agriculturist is almost sufficiently protected by the expense of transporting so bulky an article from any of the distant foreign countries which yield it in disposable abundance. Earl Fitzwilliam's able pamphlet on this subject might surely have convinced all persons whose fancied interests do not bias their judgments, that the manufacturing prosperity of England must, in future, mainly depend on the cheapness of food and labour, as certainly as that the pecuniary interests of her landowners must depend on the activity of her commerce. It is assuredly to the manufacturing and commercial prosperity of the kingdom rather than to its impolitic corn laws, that the landed aristocracy are indebted for those double rents—double as compared with the income derivable from similar property in any other country of Europe, which they now receive for land. The construction and use of machinery being now no longer a mystery, of which the knowledge is limited to England, it would be entirely contrary to reason to imagine that the manufacturers of Manchester can possibly continue to purchase dear labour and food, as well as to pay high taxes, and yet maintain their ground against the growing establishments of such cheaper countries as France, Switzerland, Belgium, and Germany. In a considerable number of articles,

as is well known, the manufactured productions of these countries are already successfully competing with those of England, not only in America, but in other distant markets of the world, so that the only ray of hope which rises to relieve the darkness of our commercial prospect is, that, by a return to cheap food and labour, the energy and capital of our country may still bear her up against the numerous competitors which surround her. No reasonable English landowner, who possesses the courage and the will to look forward to the results which manufacturing competition abroad and the existing corn laws at home must together produce, can doubt that his rent-roll would be considerably greater twenty years hence, if these laws were done away with to-morrow, than if the country should continue to drag out an inanimate commercial existence, till her rivals have so fully established themselves as to render the adoption of any change on her part too late to be beneficial. It is not, however, intended to imply that England should concede the corn question to any country, without receiving from it large countervailing advantages. She has already yielded much, without meeting that return which was anticipated; but as our exclusion of foreign corn is the reason which all the continental governments now allege as an apology for every new restriction they think fit to impose on our commerce, they could scarcely refuse

in good faith to concede much for the repeal of that law. Nor is it to be doubted that the various grain-exporting states of the Continent would, in some respects, derive even greater advantages than England by the change proposed, as it would enable their people more fully to employ themselves in the healthful and improving pursuits of agriculture, while our sallow millions would still be condemned to drive the shuttle and beat the anvil in demoralized and unmanageable masses. In concluding this subject, I will venture to assert, from personal observation, and without any fear of contradiction, that our practice of agriculture in Great Britain is, as yet, much more in advance of that of our continental neighbours than our manufacturing skill now is, and that consequently the former stands really less in aid of protection than the latter.

It would be a difficult question to decide,—whether pain to our feelings of national satisfaction, or pleasure to those of more general benevolence be most excited, by finding that the humbler classes of other countries appear more comfortably circumstanced, in so far as a passer-by is able to determine, than those of our own country. Such at least, I am disposed to think, is the case with the people of Germany, who certainly show less of that work-worn and care-bespeaking aspect which is so unpleasingly perceptible among the

masses of British operatives. The working classes of Germany may indeed be clad in coarser apparel than their fellow-labourers of England, and their food, though it is more abundant, may be of a more homely quality; but they are certainly not condemned to the same enormous quantity of animal labour, which in Britain reduces our operatives to a point almost below the level of humanity, and at the same time excludes all leisure for any other enjoyments than the purely physical. Both property and comfort may, indeed, be considered as on a more equal, though a more moderate scale, in Germany than in Britain; and if that country boasts fewer *millionnaires* in money than ours does, she is yet free from the reproach of having millions of her people in rags and misery.

Free as Protestant Germany, generally speaking, is of beggars, she yet owns a class of *respectable sollicitors*, whose demands on the traveller are made in a manner peculiarly calculated (considering the decency of their exterior) to excite the surprise of a stranger. These wanderers are the recently emancipated apprentices of the various handicrafts taught in Germany, who, after completing their term of service, frequently resort to France and other countries to perfect their knowledge, and to procure employment. In doing so, the custom of their country appears to sanction an appeal to the travelling public for pecuniary aid—a species of

degradation that must, of necessity, afford very disagreeable reminiscences to independent minds, when fortune, in an after period of life, may have smiled upon their industry and rewarded their exertions. This circumstance is so much at variance with the ordinary habits and feelings of the German people, that it must be deemed a subject of regret that some more secure fund, than that to be derived from the precarious liberality of travellers, should not be provided, to aid the migration of these youthful tailors, bookbinders, &c. to other countries. These applicants are, not unusually, quite as well dressed as those to whose liberality they appeal, and the perseverance with which some that we encountered frequently ran by the side of our carriage, was such as, added to the respectability of their appearance, generally had the effect of inducing a favourable consideration of their demands.

In concluding these remarks on Germany, I humbly conceive that English travellers, returning from a lengthened residence in France or Italy, might do well to prepare themselves for the more domestic tone of their own country by lingering some time in Northern Germany, and undergoing,

by a sojourn there, in daily intercourse with its ingenuous kind-hearted people—a species of quarantine well calculated to aid in the destruction of any latent seeds of moral disorder that may have been imbibed—such as the insincerity of France, or the luxurious indolence of Italy.

THE END.

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